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Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 1

Parish Profile

*Our Lady of Mercy
Church reflects on
half-century, looks
toward future*

| PAGE 16

KNIGHTLY SERVICE

Council's works honored by local official

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MOCKSVILLE — The community service of the Knights of Columbus was recently honored by a special visitor.

Rep. Julia Craven Howard, R-N.C., was the keynote speaker during Council 12610's general meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville Sept. 14.

Howard, a resident of Mocksville serving her eighth term in the N.C. House of Representatives, visited the Knights to pay tribute to their collective work and honor one of their members.

Approximately 100 pa-

See KNIGHTS, page 8



COVER ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED BY CNS

The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has published the 2004-05 Respect Life program kit materials for use in dioceses and organizations.
See story on page 9.

Twirling with excitement



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Eric Bird of the Birdtown Crossing Drum Group performs a hoop dance during the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity's fifth anniversary festival at St. William Church in Murphy Sept. 24-25.

OEO anniversary features music, fun

Community service awards presented

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — Cotton candy, kids' games, handcrafted wares, music, stories — a harvest festival to cel-

brate the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity's fifth anniversary.

There were no blue ribbons, but awards were presented to those characterizing the OEO motto: "We believe: Within each person lies a bone-deep longing for freedom, self-respect, hope, and the chance to make an important contribution to one's family, commu-

nity, and the world."

The festival was held Sept. 24-25 at St. William Church, adjacent to the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development, home to the OEO, an entity of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

More than 300 people attended the events on Fri-

See FESTIVAL, page 13

MISSION WORK

Lay missionaries from Mexico spread faith in N.C.

BY DANA W. LORELLE
NC CATHOLIC STAFF

KINSTON, N.C. — For three lay missionaries from Mexico, the road to ministry leads past the Unity Free Will Baptist Church and used-car lots reminding them that Jesus saves and credit is no problem.

Not one of them expected to end up in North Carolina. They didn't expect to travel around the countryside preaching about Jesus in a car with no air-conditioning, nor to set up shop in the once-thriving town of Kinston.

Least of all did they expect to minister in the United States to Mexicans who have come north for work.

Margarita Espinoza Ferrer wanted to minister to Muslims in Africa.

See MISSIONERS, page 13

Pope's World Day of Peace message to discuss good conquering evil

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II will discuss how evil must be conquered by good when he issues his 2005 World Day of Peace message.

The message's theme, released by the Vatican Sept. 28, will be "Do not be over-

See POPE, page 12

Granting help

Foundation grants assist
many in parishes, schools

| PAGE 5

In Our Schools

In-service day for teachers;
Students reach out to Iraq

| PAGES 6-7

Culture Watch

TV program depicts faith-
motivated service of U.S. Catholics

| PAGES 10-11

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS



CNS PHOTO BY MARK SAUCIER, CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

Father Tom Alber poses with his vegetable oil-fueled car in Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 10. After Father Alber accepted a new assignment requiring him to travel 200 miles on weekends and spend a lot on gas, the priest purchased a 1978 diesel car that he adapted to handle vegetable oil as fuel.

Forget cooking; priest uses vegetable oil as car fuel

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — What's silver, goes 70 mph and smells like a Fry Daddy in Lent? In Jefferson City, it could be Father Tom Alber's car.

Covering for sick or vacationing priests in far-flung parishes meant spending hundreds of dollars a month on gas. The cost and his own curiosity led him to investigate affordable alternative fuels. Before long, he was looking into the renewable resource technology offered by the diesel engine.

When Rudolf Diesel began working on a new engine in the late 1890s, he envisioned it being powered by an array of fuels. Diesel ran his engine on 100 percent peanut oil at the World's Fair in Paris in 1900.

After Diesel's death in 1913, his engine was soon running exclusively on petroleum-based diesel. But the engine's design requires little more than a timing change to run on biodiesel, a fuel made from vegetable oil.

Father Alber's initial interest in biodiesel was cut short because, as he said, he "didn't think it would be such a great idea to run an experiment involving fuel and chemical agents in a room underneath our church."

But he soon found out that he didn't have to manufacture biodiesel to get a cheaper fuel. By the time he finished reading the book "From the Fryer to the Tank," he was convinced he could reconfigure a car to run on waste vegetable oil. He asked his brother, an engineer, to help him with the project.

The priest bought a 1978 car "with only 384,000 miles" and a diesel engine. For fuel, he got 250 gallons of vegetable oil after a parish fish fry.

After making adjustments to the engine, Father Alber learned that vegetable oil does not work well with starting the engine; so he put valves into his fuel lines so he can start the engine on diesel and then switch to the vegetable oil after a few minutes. He switches back to the diesel five minutes before shutting the car off to burn out any remaining oil.

Right now he wants to make his car's use of vegetable oil more efficient and practical. Recently, he went on a weekend jaunt that took him more than 600 miles.

With the additional tanks in the trunk, he still would have had enough fuel left to fry some chicken and hush puppies.

House passes bill barring federal court rulings in pledge cases

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House of Representatives has approved a bill that would prevent the Supreme Court and all other federal courts from ruling on whether the words "under God" should be stricken from the Pledge of Allegiance.

Many opponents of the measure said they supported keeping the phrase in the pledge but felt that the bill was an unconstitutional attack on the federal judiciary and an effort to force a vote on a controversial issue during an election year.

The bill was passed 247-173, but there is little chance the Senate will vote on the measure this year.

The Supreme Court in June by an 8-0 vote upheld the use of "under God" in the pledge. It overruled, on a

technicality, a lower federal court ruling that the phrase was unconstitutional. The lower court case involved a challenge by an atheist that his daughter should not be required in her public school to recite the pledge because of the reference to God.

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization, was a leader in getting "under God" added to the pledge 50 years ago and has been at the forefront of legal efforts to keep the phrase from being erased.

The 1942 official version of the pledge did not contain the phrase. The Knights led a coalition of fraternal organizations that pushed for its insertion. The campaign was successful and the phrase was included by an act of Congress in 1954.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church will hold two conferences Oct. 17 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the John XXIII Room on the topic of *Natural Family Planning and Contraception*. The presenter will be Father Richard M. Hogan, national speaker and author. He will also be the homilist on Oct. 16 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass and Oct. 17 at the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Contact the church office at (828) 684-6098 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The 57th Semi-Annual *Family Rosary Day* will be held Oct. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Philip Scarella, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, will be the speaker. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — Would you like to learn more about your Catholic faith, but are unable to attend a class every week? *Catholic Update* meets Mondays, 5-6:15 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the New Life Center Room 102 of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a drop-in class that will cover a new topic of interest each week. Each participant will receive a *Catholic Update* from St. Anthony Messenger Press to keep. Pre-registration is not necessary — just drop in! Childcare is available at these sessions by reservation by calling (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — What is contemplative prayer? How did Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen find peace in this troubled world through contemplative spirituality? Beginning Oct. 5, Bruce Hassett, a St. Matthew Church parishioner, will present a four-week course on *Contemplative Spirituality*. The program will meet in Room 104 of the New Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., 6:30-7:45 p.m. on October 5, 12, 19 and 26. Come learn about this peaceful form of prayer and lifestyle. Call Sue VanderJeugd at (704) 541-8362 ext. 4 to register.

CHARLOTTE — Just Second Fridays, a program of the Office of Justice and Peace in partnership with St. Peter Church, will host Daniel J. Steiner Oct. 8, 1-2 p.m., at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Atrium Room in The Annex. Steiner, president & CEO, Catholic Knights, and CEO, The Catholic Funds, Inc will present "*Executive Compensation & Other Corporate Boardroom Decisions: Is there a place for applying Catholic social teaching?*" For more information, call (704) 370-3225 or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE — The second annual *American Red Mass* will be celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. The Red Mass coincides with the opening of the judicial calendar in October. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and concelebrated by Abbot Placid Solari. An informal gathering after the Mass will be held at Mama Ricotta's restaurant. For information e-mail Susan at tsmolony@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministry and the Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging will sponsor a *Health and Safety Fair* Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Ann Church,

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope reminds female prison guards to uphold human dignity

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Upholding human dignity must lie at the heart of all professions, but especially for prison guards, Pope John Paul II said.

"Every civil, professional and work training ethic must have at its foundation the primary value of the human person," the pope told some 400 representatives from Italy's prison guard system.

He made his address Sept. 27, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, whom the pope said "personally suffered the harshness of prisons."

St. Vincent taught his followers to "pay special attention to that category of poor people known as convicts," said the pope. "He asked them to show understanding and to demand humane

treatment" for prisoners.

Part of the group who met with the pope at his apostolic palace in Castel Gandolfo included female prison guards who had just completed a year of training. The pope had special words for them, urging them to take care of their spiritual lives.

"Your work calls for a solid human maturity that allows you to wed firmness with attention to the individual," he said.

"To this end, being women certainly helps you," since women possess qualities that benefit "interpersonal relationships," said the pope.

The inner strength that comes from prayer and from "a close union with God" will be necessary in the prison guards' work and everyday life, he added.

3635 Park Rd. Demonstrations and exhibitions geared toward seniors and caregivers include free osteoporosis, blood sugar and blood pressure and spinal analysis. Information will be presented on housing options, in-home health care, nutrition and scam prevention. For additional information contact Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Sherill Beason at (704) 370-3228.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *Faithful Citizenship Sessions* will be held at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Oct. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.; and Oct. 17, 12:30-2 p.m. in the Parish Family Center. Each session will cover politics, elections, candidates and issues. No pre-registration or fees, just bring yourself, and a friend, too! For details, contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Janis Dopp, director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington, Ind., will present "*Finding Spirituality in the Stories of Our Lives*," Oct. 12, 7-9 p.m. in the cafeteria of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 274-6520.

GREENSBORO — A *Charismatic Healing Mass* sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Parish Health Ministry and the Flames of Fire Prayer Group will be celebrated Oct. 15 at Our Lady of Grace Church from 7:30-9 p.m. Healing teams will be available for personal ministry after the Mass. For details, call Maureen Cavanaugh at (336) 274-6520 ext. 30.

GREENSBORO — The *Health and Hispanic Culture Festival*, an afternoon of activities including music and traditional dances, food from various countries, free health screenings and door prizes, will be held Oct. 17, 3-6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. For details call Maureen Cavanaugh at (336) 274-6520 ext. 30.

GREENSBORO — Adult Faith Formation presents the second of a series of *Issues Forums* Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Topics for discussion will include euthanasia, living wills, self-assisted suicide and the death penalty. Panel-

ists include Dr. Terence McConnell, ethicist, University of North Carolina-Greensboro; Ed Meyer, attorney; and Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan Faith Formation Office. Time for questions and refreshments will follow. For more information, contact Phil Koch at (336) 282-0255.

GREENSBORO — A series of *Coffee Talks* will be held at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. 10:30-11:15 a.m. every Sunday morning through Nov. 21. Topics will include stewardship, heaven, purgatory, saints and forgiveness. For details, contact the church office at (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or e-mail stalscss@charter.net.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — A meeting of *Court St. Mary Mother of God of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas* will be held Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. Dr. David Ramsey, guest speaker, will give a presentation on the pro-choice movement. The meeting is open to all who are interested in knowing where the Catholic Church stands on the issues. For more information, church the church office at (828) 586-9496.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican official says tolerance, respect key to fighting racism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Teaching tolerance and respect is key in the fight against racism and discrimination, a top Vatican official told international delegates meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald told the gathering that education "offers a unique opportunity to present — especially to the young — certain major values such as the unity of the human race, the equal dignity of all human beings, the solidarity which binds together all the members of the human family."

Archbishop Fitzgerald, head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, represented the Holy See at the Sept. 13-14 International Conference on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination.

He told delegates that education plays a fundamental role "in the struggle against these evils."

The roots of racism and intolerance "are found in ignorance, prejudice, and hatred, which may often arise from a faulty and inadequate education and also from the misuse of the media," he said.

There is a constant need, therefore, "to monitor and to correct, if necessary, the presentations made in textbooks in schools," he added.

"Religious communities contribute to the culture of our societies and to the democratic debate within them," said the archbishop.

Although the spiritual dimension of a faith community is not often outwardly apparent, it is still "of demonstrable importance to the life of citizens" and warrants society's respect and understanding, he said.

Tolerance "does not imply renouncing one's principles or weakening one's adherence to them," he said.

Teaching tolerance in schools and through the media entails upholding "the freedom to adhere to one's own convictions while accepting that others may adhere to theirs as well," said Archbishop Fitzgerald.

Education in tolerance also involves respecting others' religious practices, "provided that they do not violate ... the rights of others, nor national security, public health or morals," he added.

Fighting for life



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Terri Schindler Schiavo is shown here with her mother, Mary Schindler, in a photograph taken in late 2001. The Florida Supreme Court Sept. 23 struck down a law that was passed by the Legislature last fall to keep the severely brain-damaged Schiavo connected to a feeding tube against the wishes of her husband, Michael. Her feeding tube had been removed Oct. 15, 2003, by court order, but the law allowed Florida Gov. Jeb Bush to order the tube be reinserted.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following event:

Oct. 3 — 12:30 p.m. Mass

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville

CORRECTIONS FROM THE SEPT. 17 ISSUE

The Fraternity of St. Clare in Winston-Salem was accidentally omitted from a story on the Secular Franciscan Order.

Susan Chesnut's name was misspelled in a story.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Hoofin' and hollerin' for a good cause

Equestrian fair benefits ministry for homeless women

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

DALLAS, N.C. — On a bright warm day in early fall, 5,000-7,000 people gathered at Biggerstaff Park for the inaugural "Hoof'n' Holler," an equestrian fair and festival Sept. 24.

The daylong event benefited Catherine's House, a transitional residence for women and children who are homeless. The ministry, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, serves as a residential, transitional facility offering programs and guidance to women and women with children who find themselves temporarily homeless.

The Hoof 'n' Holler featured activities for adults and children including a parade of breeds, sheep shearing, hollering contest, clogging, pony rides and hayrides.

"I was overcome by the number of people from Gaston and Mecklenburg counties and beyond who came out to support this event," said Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, CEO of Catherine's House. "We received tremendous support from many churches in the Diocese of Charlotte."

Catherine's House assists women in their individual quests for employment, educational opportunities, emotional stability and ultimately, for self-sufficiency and affordable, safe housing.

At the end of the day, a 2004 Honda Civic was raffled off to winner Anita Self of Gastonia.

Sister McNamara said that although a final tally of money raised by the Hoof 'n' Holler was not yet known, it was a great success and they plan to host the event again next year.

"It showed how people are concerned about the homeless," said Sister McNamara.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catherine's House, call (704) 825-9599 or visit www.orgsites.com/nc/catherineshouse.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sister Bernadette McNamara, far right, prepares to announce the winner of a new car at the Hoof 'n' Holler, a fundraiser for Catherine's House.

CSS Triad office receives grant for pregnancy prevention program

WINSTON-SALEM — Piedmont Triad Regional Office of Catholic Social Services has been awarded a grant by the Winston-Salem Foundation.

The \$37,500 grant will be used to provide matching funds for a pregnancy prevention program, according to Constance McVey, program director.

"During the past three years, our organization has been able to have a positive impact on the lives of many community youth through Sisters and The Code, our abstinence programs for young teens," said McVey. "The grant

from the Winston-Salem Foundation will give us additional resources to expand and reach more young people ages 10 to 13."

Catholic Social Services began outreach programs in North Carolina in 1941 and has served youth in the Forsyth County area since 1980 through its Piedmont Triad Regional Office.

The Winston-Salem Foundation, founded in 1919, is a community foundation that supports charitable programs in the greater Forsyth County area.

Marching with a message



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem participate in Ronald McDonald House's 20th birthday celebration Sept. 18. The organization, which provides a "home away from home" for families of children receiving medical care in local hospitals, held a parade in which groups carried signs and wore clothing illustrating different facilities and services available through Ronald McDonald House. St. Leo the Great School students represented the laundry, kitchen, playrooms and dining room.

Catholic youth to serve on representative's advisory council

BELMONT — Two young parishioners of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont will have added responsibilities this school year.

Christopher Dean and Thomas Stocker are among the new students named to participate on the Youth Advisory Council to U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., for the 2004-2005 school year.

The council is a group of high school

students from different schools who have shown an interest in the functions of the legislative branch of government. Group members are selected based on a number of factors, including academic success, volunteer activities and extra-curricular participation.

The council meets on a regular basis to talk and share their opinions with Myrick about current events, politics and government.

RICHARD M. WEAVER INGERSOLL PRIZE FOR SCHOLARLY LETTERS 2004

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Mark Henrie
"Culture: High, Low, Middlebrow and Popular"

Peter Augustine Lawler
"The Limits of the American Utopian Imagination:
Reflections on David Brooks, Poet of Our Middle Class"

Wilfred McClay
"The Ambivalent Legacy of Philip Rieff:
The Uses of Faith After Therapy"

Robert A. Preston
"Catholic Culture in a Secular Society"

James V. Schall, SJ
"Culture Is Never Neutral"

Roger Scruton
"Culture: Why is it important?"

Gregory Wolfe
"Cult and Culture"

Attendance information, including cost, travel, hotel/motel accommodations, and schedule of talks may be found at www.bradleyinstitute.org or by calling 704-829-7231. Belmont Abbey College is located 15 miles south of Charlotte, NC, at Exit 26, on I-85.

This Symposium is under the auspices of the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College. Funding has been received from the Ingersoll Foundation, the Earhart Foundation and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

GRANTING HELP

Foundation grants assist many in parishes, schools

**\$61,700 ISSUED TO
DIOCESAN ENTITIES
THIS YEAR**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GREENSBORO — The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is helping make a difference once again.

The Foundation has issued 20 grants totaling \$61,700 to parishes, schools and agencies this year.

Jim Kelley, director of development and the Foundation, presented two of the grant checks in Greensboro during Masses at Our Lady of Grace Church Aug. 29.

During the morning Mass, Kelley presented a check of \$5,000 to Roberta Hutchcraft, principal of Our Lady of Grace School. The grant allowed three teachers and a counselor to undergo training to better understand and work with learning-disabled students.

The group spent 35 hours attending "Schools Attuned," a development and service delivery program designed to help educators acquire the knowledge, skills and innovative tools to meet the diverse needs of kindergarten-through-12th-grade students.

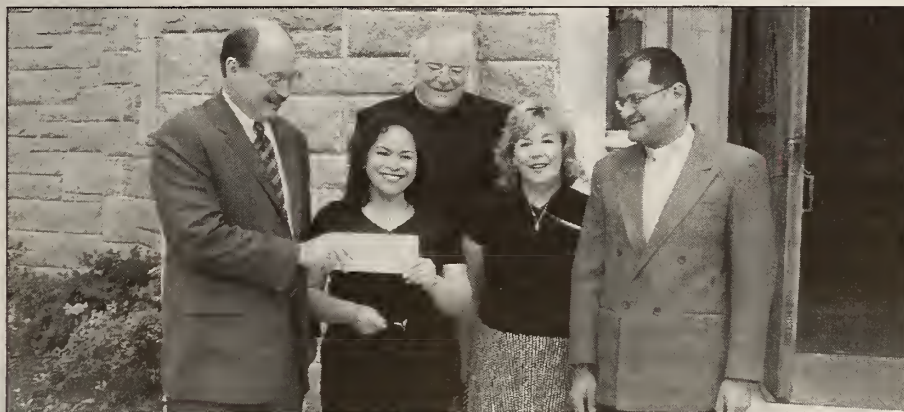


PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Jim Kelly presents a \$4,000 check from the diocesan Foundation to Rosa Delgado Martin and Carol Rodriguez Walton, members of the Greensboro Vicariate Hispanic ministry, during the Spanish-language Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church Aug. 29. Also present are Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor, and Father Luis Salvador Osorio, parochial vicar.

"It gives teachers a way to interpret how a child learns and use accommodations and interventions to assist them," said Libby Jones, counselor at Our Lady of Grace School.

The approach helps the students understand their uniqueness and how they can learn, said Jones, "so they don't let the obstacles overtake their lives."

For example, a problem with reading comprehension can spread to every aspect of a child's life, she said.

"That one obstacle can make a child

feel like they are less than," said Jones.

The learning techniques can also be applied for the entire class, she said.

The program also consists of 10 hours of follow-up training and ongoing online learning support.

During the Spanish language Mass, Kelley presented a check of \$4,000 to the Greensboro Vicariate Hispanic ministry.

The grant will help provide professional training and formation for the Hispanic lay leaders, said Enedino Aquino, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the vicariate, who is headquartered at the church.

"We'll be able to invite professional speakers and priests and provide work-

shops and training," said Aquino. "And we'll be able to send our lay leaders to institutes and training for their spiritual growth. It will make them better leaders — they'll bring back what they've learned and be able to better meet the spiritual needs of the community."

The grant will also help the ministry acquire better educational materials, said Aquino.

"It will help us continue our evangelization efforts," he said.

The Foundation, founded in 1994, is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools and agencies. By end of the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the Foundation had more than 118 endowments, nine of which were added during the past fiscal year. More than \$1 million has been distributed in 11 years to parishes, schools and agencies.

"The Foundation's goal is that over time, every parish, school and agency will have an individual endowment set up," said Kelley.

Four years ago, the Foundation started a grant-making process open to all diocesan entities. In that time, 75 parishes, schools and agencies were awarded grants up to \$5,000 each. The Foundation will continue to focus on programs that effectively support the poor; multicultural ministries; and evangelization of individuals, with a particular emphasis on those whose efforts are collaborative.

Want More Info?

For more information about the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte or setting up an endowment, please contact Jim Kelley, director of development, at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

In-service day keeps religion in the classroom

Teachers in diocese attend workshops

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — While diocesan school students enjoyed a day off early in the school term, their teachers and counselors were expanding their knowledge at in-service workshops at three locations in Charlotte Sept. 17.

In-service days, held throughout the year, are designed to motivate, inform and direct the spirituality of all teachers in Catholic schools.

"Although the rain and wind were coming from all directions, it did not deter the teachers and principals from fighting the elements to reach Charlotte," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools. "The religion in-service day brings us all back to the real reason for our existence as Catholic Schools."

Joe Holland, Ph.D., spoke to the high school teachers at Charlotte Catholic High School about "Catholic social teaching: The Holy Spirit's call to create a new global civilization based on a spirituality of life, ecological sustainability, human solidarity, institutions of peace and cultural diversity."

Holland is a professor of philosophy and religion at St. Thomas University in Miami, Fla. He is also the president of the United States Federation of Pax Romana/International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs.

Sister of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Pamela Smith, Ph.D., also spoke to teachers at Charlotte Catholic, presenting a prayerful reflection on the subject of "A Spirituality: Focusing on Action for Justice."

Sister Smith discussed her "daily life in light of living out Gospel values," said Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for diocesan schools.

Kenneth Doran addressed the kindergarten through fifth-grade and special-area teachers at St. Gabriel School. Doran spoke on the topic of creative teaching, the qualities and spirituality of the catechist and family catechesis.

Sister of Charity Carol Jean Willie, Ph.D., instructed the teachers on how to "unlock the giftedness in each child." Her

workshop provided practical applications for creation instruction and assessment across all curriculum areas.

At the Four Points Sheraton in uptown Charlotte, school counselors and middle school teachers explored God's promise in Leviticus, "I will be your God and you will be my people," with Sister of Charity Joan Cook, Ph.D. Sister Cook is an associate professor of sacred scripture at Washington Theological Union.

"It is a yearly challenge to find speakers who are 'in sync' with the teaching of the Catholic Church and make them alive and meaningful to the teachers of the Diocese of Charlotte," said Sister Meehan.

"Every subject area taught can be connected to our Catholic social teachings," said Cherry. "Beginning or ending each of the three sections with prayer or Mass left all feeling that they are called and they are chosen to bring Christ alive to their students every day."

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrated the closing liturgy at Charlotte Catholic, which included a choral performance by St. Ann School students.

"We know that everything we teach and everything we do is based on our Catholic faith," said Cherry. "The presenters brought that reality alive by showing all teachers, kindergarten



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Ann School students perform during the closing liturgy of the Religion In-Service Day at Charlotte Catholic High School Sept. 17

through 12th grade, that no matter what they teach, they are modeling our Catholic faith and traditions."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org

For more information about Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte and their programs, please visit www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html.

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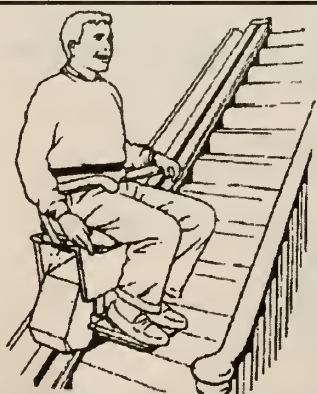
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Reaching out to Iraq

Guardsman receives care packages, teddy bears for U.S. soldiers

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — The outreach efforts at St. Leo the Great School have earned the attention of the N.C. National Guard.

With relatives of three students and two faculty members serving in Iraq, U.S. soldiers overseas were at the forefront of the school's outreach efforts last spring.

This year, a coordination of efforts from families, teachers and one second-grader in particular brought Col. Mabry E. Martin, of the 113th Artillery Brigade in Charlotte of the N.C. National Guard, to the school Sept. 24.

Col. Martin came to accept items collected by the school for delivery to U.S. soldiers in Iraq. He also spoke to the students about patriotism; offered insights on what it's like for soldiers to be separated from their families, particularly in a time of war; and emphasized the freedom enjoyed by U.S. citizens in their own country.

The colonel thanked the students for the prayers he had heard they were saying for soldiers and asked them to continue. Students pray for the soldiers and civilians serving and working in Iraq, as well as their families, on a regular basis, according to Maureen Patti, assistant principal, third-grade teacher and outreach coordinator.

For their efforts, Col. Martin presented a medal of appreciation to Georgette Schraeder, principal, who accepted it on behalf of the school.

Items collected by school families were then presented to Col. Martin. The school collection included canned fruit, nuts, hard candy, magazines and, most requested by soldiers, DVDs.

Another collection for Iraqi children included more than 100 teddy bears — the project of second grader Hannah Semke.

Hannah got the idea last summer when she heard a radio program dis-

"Out of the blue Hannah said, 'Let's collect those teddy bears and give them to children in Iraq.'"

cussing Raleigh police officers collecting bears to donate to needy children. When she learned the Winston-Salem police had a similar program, Hanna was not discouraged.

"Out of the blue Hannah said, 'Let's collect those teddy bears and give them to children in Iraq,'" said Jean Ann Semke, her mother.

Determined to collect 100 bears throughout the summer, Hannah created elaborate signs and solicited donations from friends, neighbors and relatives. Hannah contacted area department stores and wrote letters to a number of notable people, including President George W. Bush, actress Hilary Duff, Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, Wake Forest basketball coach Skip Prosser and Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C.

Near the end of the summer, having exhausted her resources, Hannah's collection totaled 95 bears. The Semkes packaged them up and sent them off to Fort Bragg to be delivered to a unit of soldiers who have daily contact with the Iraqi people.



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Colonel Mabry E. Martin of the N.C. National Guard receives a collection of teddy bears from Hanna Semke, a second-grader at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, Sept. 24. Hannah came up with the idea to collect the bears for the children of Iraq.

But Hannah was not satisfied, according to her mother; she was still shy of her goal.

With the start of school, Hannah decided to ask the school families to donate teddy bears. With Schraeder's approval, Hannah's campaign blended with the school's outreach efforts for the soldiers.

Families donated 117 more bears that enabled Hannah to surpass her goal.

"It's really a tribute to the school that Hannah made the connection of 'sad, sick or poor children' to those in Iraq," said Jean Ann Semke. "The school did outreach at the end of the (school) year and prayed for the soldiers, and we talked about it more at home."

Col. Martin also received a third col-

lection of items for Chaplain Dennis Goodwin with the 30th Infantry Brigade in Iraq who requested Christmas ornaments to decorate a seven-foot tree he plans to display for soldiers this December.

Loretta Allen, mother of a student whose uncle is serving in Iraq, brought the chaplain's request to Stephanie Iauco, school art teacher. Iauco worked with her students to make paper dove cutouts and paper wreaths for the soldiers.

Col. Martin spent some time answering questions from third- and seventh-grade students. Pat Mathews, math teacher, recalls a poignant question from one student: "When this war is over, will we have world peace?"

Mathews said Colonel Martin answered: "We pray for that."

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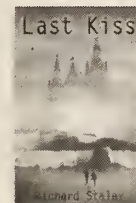
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AROUND THE DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO

Vincent Mannino (right) accepts a plaque for his community service presented by Rep. Julia Howard (right) during the Knights of Columbus meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville Sept. 14. Also pictured are (from left) Father Andrew Draper, pastor; Jim Gildein, grand knight; and state Sen. Virginia Foxx (center).

Knights' service honored by local official

KNIGHTS, from page 1

parishioners attended the open meeting, as well as N.C. Sen. Virginia Foxx and Third Order Regular of St. Francis Father Andrew Draper, pastor and council chaplain.

"I'd like to recognize and acknowledge the past and present leadership of the St. Francis Knights of Columbus," said Howard. "Grand Knights Roger Hunckler, Jim Gildine, Vincent Mannino and David Taylor have worked tirelessly to lead this order in making a positive impact on our community."

"In the four years that you have been active in our community, you have made a real and lasting impact," she told the Knights. "And on behalf of the people of Mocksville and all of Davie County, we are grateful for your many efforts."

Howard highlighted some of the projects completed since the council was founded in January 2000, including raising \$24,700 through its Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brothers) fundraiser.

"Already the Davie County Special Olympics, the Arc (of North Carolina) and South Davie Middle School have benefited," said Howard.

Other Knights projects highlighted included raising \$3,000 for Davie County schools; donating \$1,000 to South Davie Middle School for computer software needed by mentally handicapped students; giving more than \$1,800 to the American Red Cross and sponsoring an annual blood drive; and providing an annual \$500 scholarship for a Davie County ROTC student.

"You have provided for a number of needy families in Davie County with donations of furniture and other necessary items," said Howard. "... You raised \$2,500 for the Storehouse for Jesus, in addition to the weekly donation of canned foods you provide to that organization, helping to provide for those in our community who need our help the most."

Because of these efforts and others, said Howard, "the St. Francis Knights of Columbus have won numerous awards from both the state and supreme councils."

"I can't imagine any council deserving this distinction more," she said. "It has been my pleasure to hear about and work with you over the years, and I look forward to seeing what new efforts await."

The council-sponsored Columbian Squires circle, for Catholic boys ages 12 to 18, has also three times received the Corps d'Elite, the highest service award for Squires, noted Jim Gildein, grand knight.

Gildein said the council was honored to have both Howard and Foxx at the meeting, but their community service isn't dependent on recognition.

"Someone reaches out to us and we react," he said. "We just want to help people

who are in need."

Gildein said the council was one vehicle for parishioners to "go out and do the good works."

Howard also paid tribute to Mannino and presented him with a plaque from Gov. Michael Easley, in recognition for his "outstanding service to the great state of North Carolina."

"I personally know of the many lives that Vince Mannino has touched. He is a proven leader, a man with a heart of gold ..." said Howard. "Vince, I simply can't thank you enough for all that you are and all that you do."

"I was surprised. I didn't expect it," said Mannino. "My dedication is to the church, community and the people. I'm proud of the Knights of Columbus and the parish of St. Francis (of Assisi)."

Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., to aid widows and children in his parish. Today, the Knights provide more than \$52 billion in insurance for members and their families.

With nearly 1.7 million members, it is the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world.

According to recently released figures, the Knights of Columbus contributed a record \$130 million to charity in 2003. The number of service hours contributed by Knights also was at an all-time high at 61 million hours in 2003.

The Knights awarded a record \$1.5 million in college scholarships. They provided nearly \$2.5 million in aid to 3,794 seminarians last year as part of their efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Catholics rally for pro-life issues

RESPECT LIFE MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO DIOCESES, PARISHES

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Across the diocese and the United States, Catholics are gearing up for the fight for life.

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, with Respect Life Sunday — this year themed "Made in His Image" — falling on Oct. 3.

Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the U.S. bishops inaugurated the Respect Life program with a resolution they adopted in the spring of 1972. The first of what the resolution called a "week of prayer and study dedicated to the sanctity of human life and the many threats to human life in our world" was held that October.

"Begun as a 'week of prayer and study' focusing on contemporary threats to human life, the program expanded to a month of prayer and study, and expanded quickly again to a year-round program that begins anew each year on the first Sunday of October," Msgr. Fay said.

"Obviously, we know that we're called to uphold the sanctity of life throughout the year, but it is good to focus on it more specifically in the month of October," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life ministry.

"It's a time to purposefully reflect on the gift of life, the dignity of life and the author of life," she said.

For many parishes, the Life Chain is a notable kickoff event for the month.

Held on Respect Life Sunday, the Life Chain is one of the more visible signs against abortion as people line city

streets while holding placards with messages such as "Abortion kills children" and "Abortion hurts women."

This year, hundreds of Life Chains are expected to form across the United States. In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishes are participating along property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns.

The 32nd anniversary Respect Life Sunday kit materials are available in English and Spanish to dioceses and parishes from the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. The Secretariat, under the guidance and direction of the Committee for Pro-Life Activities, works to teach respect for all human life from conception to natural death and to organize for its protection.

"The Respect Life program is the primary educational vehicle for the (bishops') Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities," said Msgr. William P. Fay,

general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The 2004-05 kit includes a poster in English and Spanish, fliers on the theme in English and Spanish, six educational essays on life issues, clip art for church bulletins or newsletters, a liturgy guide and a catalog of pro-life publications and resources.

The fliers, essays and liturgy guide are also available online at www.usccb.org/prolife, along with electronic versions of essays and other resources from past programs going back to 1996.

Essay topics are suicidal behavior by youth, advances in surgery for unborn patients, a critique of assisted reproductive technologies, effective strategies for pro-life advocacy, the human dignity of those in a "vegetative" state and a discussion of sex and marriage from sociological and theological perspectives.

The printed kit includes the essays in English only, but they are available online in both English and Spanish.

In addition to homily tips and sample intercessions for life for use at Mass, this year's liturgy guide includes a novena to Sts. Anne and Joachim and offers rosary meditations on the five "mysteries of light," based on events in Christ's public life, that Pope John Paul II introduced in 2002.



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Parishioners of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro were part of the Greensboro Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5, 2003.

Want To Go?

Life Chains in the Diocese of Charlotte area are being held Sunday, Oct. 3. Participants should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled start time. Life Chains include:

Holy Family Church, Clemmons (along Hanes Mall Blvd. west of Stratford Rd. in Winston-Salem), 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville (along Rt. 25 from Stoney Mountain Rd.), 2-3 p.m.

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte, 1-2 p.m.

Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte, 1-2 p.m.

Queen of Apostles Church, Belmont, 1-2 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury, 1-2 p.m.

St. Ann's Church, Charlotte, 2-3 p.m.

St. Barnabas Church, Arden (along Rt. 25 from Stoney Mountain Rd.), 2-3 p.m.

St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte (joined by Uptown Christ Covenant church), 2-3 p.m.

St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

St. Mark Church, Huntersville, 2-3 p.m.

St. Matthew Church, Charlotte, 2-3 p.m.

St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte (at Charlotte Pregnancy Center on Morehead St.), 2-3 p.m.

St. Peter Church, Charlotte, 2-3 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church (at UNC-C main entrance), Charlotte, 1-2 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte, 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Mocksville (Yadkinville Rd. at Blaise Baptist Church), 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Greensboro (Battleground Ave. at Westridge Rd), 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Salisbury (Main at Innes), 1-2 p.m.

Statesville (Glenway Dr. at Crossroads), 2-3 p.m.

Sylva (Main St. at old court house), 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Waynesville (Russ Ave. at Walnut St.), 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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President & CEO, Catholic Knights and
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Daniel Steininger is chairman of Catholic Knights, the second largest Catholic fraternal organization in North America. He also serves as chairman of The Catholic Equity Fund, which offers individual and institutional investors a mutual fund advocating Catholic values in business. He regularly appears at shareholder meetings of major corporations to advocate for reasonable CEO compensation, better corporate governance, and the end of human rights abuses.

Steininger is frequently quoted by the news media including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Markets magazine, and The Business Journal.

He received his law degree from Boston University in 1973.

Sponsors: Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, in partnership with St. Peter Catholic Church and CSS Western Regional Office



Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Sister Rupp, spiritual writer, receives U.S. Catholic Award

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — The Catholic Church has an overabundance of masculine energy that needs to be balanced with more feminine approaches, Servite Sister Joyce Rupp told nearly 200 attendees at a reception honoring her with the 2004 U.S. Catholic Award.

Since 1978, the award has been presented annually by the editors of U.S. Catholic magazine for furthering the cause of women in the church.

Sister Rupp, a spiritual writer and retreat leader, used the Chinese terms "yin" and "yang" to compare and contrast the approaches of men and women.

"A yang, or masculine, approach is organized, structural and concrete: 'Here is the information. I have found the facts,'" she said in her remarks Sept. 8.

"A yin, or feminine, approach looks at a theme or topic from many angles, reflects upon it from one's lived experience and then presents it to the group," she said. "It never acts like it has the final answer."

While noting that the church needs both the yin and yang approaches — information and lived experience — Sister Rupp said she sees an imbalance.

"There is such a predominance of yang energy in church leadership right now," she said. "Yin energy has almost been snuffed out, but I see women refusing to let this yin energy go the church's graveyard."

In her work as a spiritual director, retreat master, author and

speaker, Sister Rupp said she encounters many women "in immense pain" because of how they feel they are treated by the church.

But she finds "nuggets of hope" in groups of women gathering around the world to find the sacred in their own experience, she said.

"If there are miracles happening in the church today, the central one is that women continue to remain within the church as faith-filled members," she said.

Sister Rupp is the author of many books, including "Praying Our Goodbyes," "Your Sorrow is My Sorrow," "The Cosmic Dance" and a recent book of poetry, "Rest Your Dreams on a Little Twig."

Previous winners include Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph; Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz; the Catholic Theological Society; and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Pa.

In presenting the award to Sister Rupp, U.S. Catholic managing editor Heidi Schlumpf called her "a pioneer in feminine spirituality."

"Before it became a commonly accepted practice to find spirituality in everyday life, she was helping people find the divine in the ordinariness of family, work, relationships and nature," Schlumpf said.

She also praised Sister Rupp for being "a strong and consistent advocate for women to trust their own experience and for women's inclusion across the board. She is a gentle woman, but she is never afraid to speak the truth."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 10, 2004

Oct. 10, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) 2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalm 98:1-4
- 2) 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- 3) Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Forgiveness and healing go hand in hand

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Late in the afternoon a ritual occurs in high schools across the country, triggered by the final bell. Students scurry to meet buses, practices, parents or rides to work.

Closing the door, I enter the classroom and allow the bliss of sacred silence to envelop me. What was once a room filled with some 30 energy-driven students has become a time to finish the day's tasks in a vault of peace and quiet.

Generally, the time at the end of the school day provides an opportunity to begin to address the unending nightmare of papers to be graded and recorded. Moreover, it is the time to create new lessons that will generate even more papers.

On one such afternoon, lost in music

and thought, I had that feeling of not being alone. I looked up from my work to see a handsome young man who looked as if he were dressed for the most important interview of his life.

"Mrs. Corzine?" he asked.

"Yes. May I help you?" I answered.

"I know you probably don't remember me, but I used to sit right over there," he said, pointing across the room toward a desk in the corner.

At the outset I did not remember, but as this young man began to talk I did, indeed, remember. Here, standing before me, was someone who had been one of the brightest, most rebellious, most drug-and-alcohol-ridden students I ever had encountered.

Ours had been a tortured relationship: I tried to help. Filled with anger and drugs, he wanted none of it.

Fortunately, his task this particular day was one I never will forget.

He told me: "I've driven past this school for months, wondering if you were still teaching here. I've been clean and sober for six years now. I finished college. I'm married and have a son. Today I decided it was time for me to stop and say thank you and to ask you to forgive me."

When I read the story about the healed leper who returns to thank Jesus in Luke's Gospel, I remember my student and know the power of Jesus is palpable in our world today. Forgiveness and healing truly go hand in hand.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 9

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10; Monday (St. Francis of Assisi), Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday, Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday, Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 11:5-13; Friday, Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday (St. Denis & Companions, St. John Leonardi), Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 10 - OCTOBER 16

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; Monday, Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1, Luke 11:29-32; Tuesday, Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; Wednesday, Galatians 5:18-25, Luke 11:42-46; Thursday (St. Callistus I), Ephesians 1:1-10, Luke 11:47-54; Friday (St. Teresa of Avila), Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; Saturday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Marguerite d'Youville), Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 12:8-12.

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Program for ABC-TV depicts faith-motivated service of U.S. Catholics

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — For the 65 million Catholics in the United States, there is no typical way to put belief into action.

In fact, there are many ways Catholics live out their faith as illustrated by "Faith Works: Across the U.S.A.," a new documentary slated to air on ABC-TV stations in October.

The show looks at ordinary days in the lives of several U.S. Catholics.

It profiles a priest in Alaska who pilots his own plane to remote parishes;

a New Orleans restaurateur who teaches vital job skills to inner-city youths; and a woman religious who travels the back roads of Appalachia to provide health care to the poor.

The one-hour program, produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, will be offered to ABC affiliates Oct. 3 to air at their discretion.

The Catholics who are featured in the program provide a sense of the depth and diversity of Catholic ministry, according to a USCCB news release.

The program highlights a Catholic elementary school principal in Fort Worth, Texas, who helps several immigrant families, and a Jesuit priest who is also a world-famous astronomer in Arizona. The principal and the astronomer share the same faith but express it differently.

"People know that the church includes hard-working, dedicated priests, women religious and laity," said Ellen McCloskey, CCC executive producer. "Still, we were delighted to witness firsthand the imagination and enthusiasm with which these faith workers share the Gospel."

Among those featured is Patrick Mulcahy and the "Wednesday Night Suppers" he created to provide a welcome dining experience for the needy at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in San

Francisco.

"I hear the word of God and I look at myself and think, 'How can you put this into action?'" said one of the dinner volunteers, Ramona Michaels. "And because Patrick founded this wonderful place to feed the people, I think this is the best way I can put it into action."

"Faith Works: Across the U.S.A." was produced for the CCC by Digital Shooters of New York. The documentary is part of the "Vision & Values" series of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, a consortium of Christian and Jewish groups that provides religious and spiritual programming to network television.

The CCC is an effort of the USCCB to develop programming, public service announcements, and other resources to promote Gospel values in the media.

BBC announces withdrawal of controversial cartoon series 'Popetown'

LONDON (CNS) — A controversial cartoon program that lampooned the papacy has been canceled by the British Broadcasting Corp. following months of protests by British Catholics.

The BBC announced Sept. 23 that it would not broadcast the cartoon series "Popetown." The show was said to feature the pope as a childish retiree whose every fickle whim must be indulged.

In announcing the decision to cancel the show, Stuart Murphy, controller of BBC Three, said, "There is a fine judgment line in comedy between scurrilously funny and the offensive."

"I knew when we developed the series that there was risk involved, but unfortunately, once we saw the finished series, it became clear that the program fell on the wrong side of that line," he said.

Murphy said the comic impact of "Popetown" did "not outweigh the potential offense it will cause."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said he was "very happy they have heeded my wishes and the concerns of Roman Catholics."

Bishop Crispian Hollis of Portsmouth, England, chairman of the bishops' strategic communications committee, said the program would have offended "the Catholic community who hold the person of the Holy Father in the highest regard and affection."

"Any attempt to belittle or diminish the pope's status as the leader of the Catholic Church is totally unacceptable, and not only to Catholics," he said.



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Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Pope's World Day of Peace message

POPE, from page 1

come by evil, but overcome evil by good," taken from a verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

In striving to achieve good and avoid evil, one cannot ignore "the many social and economic problems that burden people's lives," said a Vatican statement released with the theme.

The full text of the pope's annual peace message is traditionally published in December, just a few weeks before the

church's Jan. 1 celebration of the World Day of Peace.

The theme aims to raise people's awareness of "evil as (the) cause and source of conflicts and wars" and of the "inseparable link between moral good and peace," said the Vatican statement.

The pope's message will aim to encourage all people to "practice personal and collective responsibility" for the pursuit of the common good and "to seek good as the surest and fastest road to peace," it said.

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Missioners spread faith in N.C.

MISSIONERS, from page 1

Andrea Torres Barragan left her job in agricultural sciences and asked God to send her to "the place where nobody wants to work," not thinking that place could possibly be the United States.

Coming to America never even occurred to Guadalupe Ramos Marin, who rounds out the trio recruited from a lay missionary school in Mexico.

"I never thought that God would call me to this country," she said. "But when God presented me this opportunity in my life, I said, 'Where you send me, I will go.'"

Four years ago, God's call sent them to Kinston. They work with three parishes: Holy Spirit in Kinston, St. Mary in Goldsboro and St. Catherine of Siena in Wake Forest.

Most weekdays they gather at Holy Spirit to plan the weekend liturgy, schedule faith formation classes, and offer spiritual and material help to those who seek it.

After their office hours, they go after those who do not seek their help — those who live and work out beyond the downtown area.

Other times the women go their separate ways, one to English class, one to guitar lessons so she can help with the choir, another to visit migrant camps.

Their job description — if such a thing exists in ministry — is to train and form lay leaders within the Hispanic community. They identify and develop eucharistic ministers, catechists, ushers, altar servers, lectors and anyone else a Catholic community needs.

But in the course of finding these

potential leaders, they necessarily find a community in need. Their ministry is equal parts spiritual and physical, pious and pragmatic. It's a matter of keeping the immigrants in clothes as well as keeping them in the Catholic Church.

They must help with taxes and visas and schooling issues for children, find furniture and food. Luckily, said Barragan, other charitable organizations and Catholic Social Ministries of the Raleigh Diocese step in often to help.

Sometimes all that's needed is a heartfelt welcome and invitation to Mass. But the local Catholic church isn't the only one with that idea.

"One of the biggest challenges is that we have a large population of Hispanic people in this area who have not been catechized and who are going to other churches," said Barragan.

Another obstacle is that other churches have buses; the Catholic church in the area doesn't. It does little good to invite families to Mass if they have no way of getting there, although the lay missionaries put plenty of miles on their car driving parishioners to Mass or the store or school.

But even if the three lay women can provide transportation and faith formation and material assistance, many Hispanics have never received any of the sacraments.

So, the missionaries have developed a step-by-step program designed to

bring all the families into full communion with the church.

On a recent afternoon that was the topic of conversation at a mobile home where men in blue uniforms gathered for lunch, while the women in the kitchen taste-tested pots of sauce and children watched English-language cartoons.

Three of the couples were making plans to be married. In Spanish they chuckled about the questionnaire the church requires of all engaged couples, wondering what would happen if they failed.

Visits like these are a cornerstone of the trio's ministry.

"It's a skill," explained Marin. "When we visit with them in their homes, they feel more comfortable with us, they have more trust in us."

Dana W. Lorelle is the staff writer for the NC Catholic, diocesan newspaper of the Diocese of Raleigh.



NC CATHOLIC PHOTO BY DANA W. LORELLE

Guadalupe Ramos Marín, a lay missionary from Mexico, greets a parishioner outside her house in Kinston.

OEO anniversary

FESTIVAL, from page 1

day evening and Saturday.

"Everybody there thought it was great, everyone had a good time," said Joan Furst, OEO director. "People have been calling me telling me how good it was."

A "Taste of Havana" dinner in the parish hall kicked off the event, with proceeds going to Hispanic outreach programs in the local community.

Then the pavilion behind the church featured The Smoky Mountain Melodies band's country music, tales from professional storyteller Barbara Freeman and the presentation of OEO community service awards. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte, presented the awards.

Eduardo Bernal, Smoky Mountain Vicariate Hispanic ministry coordinator, received the leadership award for his "creativity, boundless energy and great devotion in going above and beyond his designated job duties to develop leadership in the Latino community."

Joanne Kennedy Frazer, former director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, received the distinguished service award for being "extremely instrumental in the establishment of the Office of Economic Opportunity."

Frazer also was "lead staff person ... in the writing and dissemination of the 1997 pastoral letter 'Of One Heart and One Mind' which raised awareness [about] those who were not participating fully in the economic growth of the state."

Saturday, Smoky Mountain Melodies and Freeman entertained again, along with the Rebels Without Applause band, the Brown Family singers and the Birdtown Crossing Drum Group with Native American hoop dancer Eric Bird.

St. William Men's Club cooked hot dogs and hamburgers and the St. William Ladies Guild sold baked goods. Community groups raised awareness with information displays, and vendors displayed pottery, woodworks, silver jewelry and handcrafted items.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@ndnet.net.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

No discounts for fallen angels

Even the devil knows abortion is murder, evil

Editor's Note: This column, which originally appeared in the Jan. 16, 2004 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, is reprinted due to overwhelming popular demand.

As I was lounging in the diocesan hot tub the other day, I was paged about a visitor to see me. So I teleported down to the lobby of the Pastoral Center to see who it was.

To my horror and deep chagrin, I found the devil waiting for me. He was perusing the latest issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

"Someone actually lets you print this stuff, Kevy-boy?" he asked with a grin.

"What can I do for you, Lu?" I asked. You see, ol' Lucifer often stands out in the parking lot and makes faces at our windows to pester us. By this point, he and I were on a first-name basis.

"I would like to run an ad," he stated.

"An ad?" I was skeptical. "For what?"

"Let's talk in your office, and I'll tell you all about it."

So we teleported back upstairs. The devil's arrival on the third floor triggered the intruder alert system, and after I assured the diocesan SWAT team that Lu was my guest, we proceeded to my office.

He tossed a mockup of the ad on my desk.

"I can't let you run an ad for an abortion clinic!" I exclaimed, reviewing the ad.

"Why not?" he asked.

"Abortion is against church teaching," I reminded him. "It's murder."

"Baloney," he huffed. "It's simply the 'termination of pregnancy by the induced removal of an embryo or fetus (that is incapable of survival outside the body of the woman) which results in the death of the embryo/fetus.'"

"You don't actually expect me to believe that," I said.

"Of course not," he replied. "Heck, even I know abortion is murder. Why do you think I'm up here trying to place this ad? I've got to stoke the fires, so to speak. So, what kind of price are we

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR



looking at for the ad? Are there any discounts for fallen heavenly creatures?"

"Hold up," I said. "You admit that abortion is murder?"

"Do you think these horns make me stupid?" he asked. "If I recall correctly, it was I who came up with the word 'fetus.' Rather convenient, don't you think?"

"How so?" I asked.

"An unborn baby's heart begins to beat between 18 and 25 days after conception. Its brain begins to function as early as 40 days!" said the devil. "How can a human with a heart beat and brainwave activity not be considered a living being? So 'fetus' is a comfortable word to help people sleep at night."

"Some people say it's still a woman's choice because it's her body," I said.

"I've heard that one," laughed Lucifer. "But when did the government stop telling people what they can and can't do with their bodies? People want to put drugs in their bodies, but lawmakers say no. People want tattoos on their bodies, but that's illegal in some states. I could go on."

"But, have you ever noticed that it's only a 'fetus' when it's to be aborted?" he continued. "I mean, does anyone get invited to fetus showers? Does anyone ask a pregnant mother how the little fetus is doing? And, by golly, you'll never hear an expectant mother exclaim: 'I just felt the fetus kick!'"

He leaned back in the chair, plopped his hooves up on my desk and lit one of my cigars.

"What about abortions in cases of rape and incest?" I posed.

"Bah!" said the devil. "Even I know that pregnancy from rape is extremely rare. A study of one thousand rape victims who were treated after the rape reported no pregnancies. Besides, the circumstances under which the baby was created has no bearing on its value — it's still a human being. The only ones who really benefit from keeping abortion legal are the ones who profit from it. Speaking of which, can we get back to my ad now?"

"So, if you know abortion is the murder of unborn children, how can

Pope, at audience, says beauty includes thirst for holiness, justice

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Human beauty reflects divine beauty only when it is combined with a commitment to justice and the thirst for holiness, Pope John Paul II said.

"Beauty must be joined with goodness and holiness of life in order to make the glowing face of the good, wonderful and just God shine on the world," the pope said Sept. 29 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope, whose audience marked his return to the Vatican after three months at his summer villa, commented on Psalm 45, the "wedding hymn for the king," in his main talk.

The canticle, he said, "exalts the beauty and intensity of the gift of love between spouses," highlighting the beauty first of the groom and then of the bride.

In the church's evening prayer, the psalm is sung or recited in the way it is used in the New Testament's Letter to the Hebrews: as a hymn to Jesus Christ, the messianic king, the pope said.

The beauty of the bridegroom praised in the psalm is a "sign of interior splendor and divine blessing," he said.

"Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men," the psalm says.

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



Pope John Paul said the line has inspired Christians for centuries to depict Christ in art as a physically "perfect and fascinating man."

"In a world often marked by ugliness and baseness, this image is an invitation to rediscover the 'via pulchritudinis' ('path of beauty') in the faith, in theology and in social life in order to ascend to divine beauty," he said.

By emphasizing the authority, the love for justice and the hatred of evil that belong to the handsome king, the psalm emphasizes that physical beauty is of passing value unless it is accompanied by holiness and justice, the pope said.

Only when beauty "is united with spiritual goodness and with holiness does it become in men and women a manifestation of the goodness of God, of his splendor and his justice," said the Polish-language summary of the pope's talk.

you support it?" I asked.

He leaned forward. "What? Do I look like 'the Church Lady' to you?"

"No, but you're supposed to corrupt souls, not support the murder of unborn babies," I alleged.

"Four thousand abortions take place in the United States every day. Abortion has killed more people than the Civil War, Revolutionary War, both World Wars and the Korean and Vietnam Wars combined. As long as abortion continues in this country, souls are being corrupted, morals are fading and good people are failing," said Lucifer.

"Abortion is barbaric, it's true, but the more people stand up for it, the further they move away from that goody-two-shoes upstairs," he said. "People don't know that, and that works out well in the end for me."

I was troubled. Before I could respond, the Gold Phone rang. It's my direct line to the Vatican.

"Murray!" shouted the pope. "Get that devil out of there! He'll stain the rug!"

Unbeknownst to many, the pope actually monitors all of his dioceses on giant view screens set up in a massive control room. And never one to disobey the Holy Father, I quickly hung up,

grabbed the devil by the neck and dragged him to the window.

"Sorry, Lu, I've got to get thee behind me," I said, and tossed him out the window.

He was none too happy, and began to raise Hell — literally — when the bishop's helicopter swooped in over the horizon.

"We'll continue this another day, Kevy-boy," said Lucifer, waving his fist at me. "Besides, I'm late for brunch with Osama bin Laden."

As he scurried off, I glanced down at his ad, still on my desk. Sadly, abortion is still legal in this country, and more than 1 million women get abortions per year. How, I wondered, could the most advanced nation on Earth still condone the senseless killing of the most precious, the most innocent, when even the devil knows it's wrong?

There is no discount for fallen angels. But will there be salvation for a society that doesn't change its sinful ways?

Soaking again in the diocesan hot tub, I thought of those who were joining in Life Chains this Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 3, for I knew God would be there with them, holding his anti-abortion placard, hoping to one day win the good fight.

Feeding body and soul

The next high should be God

I used to think my moods depended solely on the state of spiritual condition.

If I had paid attention to the priest's sermon at Mass and reflected on the words of the prayers instead of daydreaming about the 40 things I hadn't yet accomplished on my weekend's to-do list, if I had gotten down on my knees in the morning and consistently said my dawn meditation, if I had dutifully read the Bible before tucking in for the night, then I wouldn't suffer from anxiety and depression.

Now I think my mental state has more to do with what I ate for breakfast and lunch, on whether I have gotten this body into motion by running or swimming in the last month and on remembering to take my vitamins and antidepressants.

Of course, a stellar record of physical activity, nutritional balance and a boost from drugs isn't completely responsible for my soul's contents. I need God in my life. I try to foster my relationship with God as I would with a friend, sister or husband — by talking to him.

But interestingly enough, those moments with the Creator have the same physiological effect on my brain as exercise and proper diet.

In her groundbreaking book "Potatoes Not Prozac," Kathleen

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



DesMaisons cites a few activities that trigger a beta-endorphin release in your brain, similar to the high an addict experiences from alcohol, drugs and sugar. She draws on scientific articles about the beta-endorphin effect of exercise, meditation, music, yoga, prayer, inspirational talks, sex and nutritious food.

That's good news for many young people like myself who used to live for the next high — be it from Marlboros and full-leaded lattes in the morning, six-packs of Miller Light and bags of Doritos at night or Godiva chocolates around the clock. These persons with sensitive biochemistries cope daily with dangerous yoyo emotions, spiking and then crashing so many times daily that they fall to their beds in exhaustion, only to wake weary in the morning, craving the first cup of coffee, which generates the cycle again.

I was only 18 when I discerned that alcohol wasn't my friend. Two pregnancies heralded the other changes, with a share of resentment. I wasn't a chain smoker, but cigarettes sufficed as a nice crutch in uncomfortable social situations when I couldn't drink. But the more I binge smoked and stopped, I realized I was once again on the dangerous road to addiction.

As I approached my daughter's due date, I counted down the days until I could once again wink at the barista at my favorite cafe, cueing him to make my regular coffee. But after her pediatrician detected an irregular heartbeat, I had to abstain another nine months (because caffeine is transmitted in breast milk), which was enough time to notice I was a much nicer person without that artificial boost of adrenaline in the morning.

The sugar epiphany has only come of late. As often happens, my 3-year-old son was my teacher. After unsuccessfully trying to tame his wild and unyielding tantrums following birthday parties at preschool, where he'd ingest cupcakes, suckers and fruit punch, I observed a pattern.

Following two episodes where his unbridled outbursts landed other children in the emergency room, I finally said "no mas." I studied up on how some sweets affect small brains and realized that my big brain wasn't benefiting from these socially accepted uppers either.

It's beginning to feel like Lent all year round for me. Which means I'm feeling a bit holier, or at least even keel, even when I miss my morning meditation.

Sixteen things I've learned about Catholics

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



Pulitzer-prize-winning humorist Dave Barry was recently credited with authoring a list of "Sixteen Things That It Took Me Over 50 Years to Learn," a litany that included entries such as "Never lick a steak knife."

It set me to pondering: Are there 16 things that took me more than 50 years to learn about the Catholic Church and Catholics? By golly, there are:

1. It is almost impossible not to laugh loudly when a 4-year-old drops the kneeler on his father's ankle, thus forcing the father to lurch forward and thwack his forehead on the back of the pew in front of him, which, in turn, can leave him (the father) a groaning lump.

2. Yelling at someone about your religious convictions actually decreases the chances that the person will hear you.

3. Attending Mass every week should not be confused with being holy. Probably it should, but it does not necessarily make us kinder or more moral than others.

4. Many times it is easier to pray to the Blessed Mother than to Jesus.

5. It is bad, bad form to decline a 5-year-old's invitation to hold hands during the Our Father.

6. Becoming enraged with God is a potential eighth proof of his existence.

7. There is way too much pressure put on pastors.

8. A good homily really can change a person's life. So can a bad one.

9. Patience is better than panic for communicating with God. But both work.

10. It is good to distinguish between prayer and wishful thinking, but sometimes nearly impossible.

11. No one knows why pew pencils are the same ones you use to keep score at a golf course.

12. The longer one stays away from confession, the harder it is to go.

13. Hanging around someone who is a veteran of the mission lands can be like Jesus rubbing spit on the blindness of one's soul, and they are always so darn happy.

14. Putting men and women religious on a pedestal is not healthy for them or us. We all need support, love and understanding in greater portion than adulation, pampering or deference.

15. Things Catholic make much better theater and movie material than any other religion.

16. The Hail Mary is like duct tape; kept handy, it can help you through a remarkable number of situations.

I know I left out all the truths about pancake breakfasts, bingo and the altar society. These are worth lists of their own.

Acceptance is key

Accepting God's will is the goal of a healthy spiritual life. Acceptance is what it means to be holy.

Holiness is not the reward of a lifetime of loving service. We give a lifetime of loving service because we are holy. Holiness is not what happens to us if we are kind and forgiving. We are kind and forgiving because we are holy. Acceptance is key.

Those who have attained any degree of holiness have done so because they have a basic disposition to do God's will. This also implies a willingness to accept what he allows to happen to us, even when we do not fully understand it at the time.

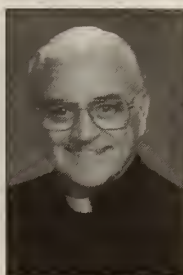
Lots of bad things happen to good people. There is an abundance of misery and injustice in the world. Acceptance doesn't mean that we should become absolutely passive. It is normal to complain when we are getting pushed around.

If one is disposed to do God's will, however, then one learns to accept the kingdom of God despite the negativity all around us. ("Thy will be done," "Thy kingdom come.") The soul is in the right disposition for further growth when it reacts with faith, not emotions.

There will be doubt and confusion

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



all the way along. Even the saints lived in emotional turmoil as they tried to lift up their spirits and stay the course. This constant effort to do God's will, accepting what is unavoidable, is a sure sign of holiness. We are gaining heaven one day at a time.

Father Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk who wrote "Seven Storey Mountain," was no stranger to controversy and suffering. He wrote a helpful book on solitude in which he revealed his interior struggle. Here is a lovely prayer from that book:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself. The fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe the desire to please you

actually does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do that, you will lead me by the right road. Though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

This humble prayer expresses what most of us feel so often in our spiritual lives. We are always trying to rise above the confusion and doubt. Rising to the level of cheerful acquiescence takes time, but with God's grace it is possible.

We know with certainty that he loves us with an infinite love and wants to give us a share in his happiness. Trust him. Think much more about his love and much less about your unworthiness.

And if in the process of fighting against injustice or correcting abuses you get burned by the opposition, don't be discouraged. As the song goes, "Just pick yourself up, brush yourself off and start all over again."

In this way you can die in the peaceful knowledge that even though you were confused, you tried to do your best.

PARISH PROFILE

Our Lady of Mercy Church reflects on half-century in Winston-Salem, looks toward future

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

1730 Link Road
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104
(336) 722-7001

Vicariate: Winston-Salem
Pastor: Franciscan Father William Robinson
Parochial Vicar: Franciscan Father Conall McHugh
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Joseph Schumacher
Pastoral Associate: Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel
Number of Families: 1,100



Franciscan Father William Robinson



PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, digs the first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new church building Sept. 12, 2004. Approximately 400-500 people attended the groundbreaking.

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Church was founded in part because of a large influx of Western Electric employees who relocated from New Jersey to Winston-Salem in 1954. To meet the needs of the families, two houses on South Main Street and land were purchased and plans for the church were begun.

At that time, Catholicism was not readily welcomed and several restrictive zoning ordinances had to be overcome before the church could be built. Finally the problems were surmounted and one house was renovated to become the rectory, and later became the parish center.

For some time Mass was celebrated in the rectory as the little parish began to make its presence known in Winston-

Salem. At the time of its establishment, there were just a few parishioners, but by the end of the first year 235 people were members of Our Lady of Mercy Church and the church had its own mission, Our Lady of Fatima Chapel.

Plans for a new church building began with a fund drive to pay for a combined church and school building. Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new church on Mother's Day, 1957. In the fall, the school complex adjoining the church was dedicated by then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters. Sisters of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Pa., came to staff the school and served as administrators and teachers for the next 30 years.

As the years passed, the number of parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy

Church did not grow as expected for several reasons. First, Our Lady of Fatima Chapel was established as an independent parish and many Our Lady of Mercy parishioners were moved there. Also, the number of Catholics in Winston-Salem was not increasing rapidly.

In 1967, the citywide problem of parish numbers was somewhat alleviated when parish boundaries were changed. A continued increase in growth began at that time and continues today, allowing the people of Our Lady of Mercy Church to provide

many outreach programs.

The church has been staffed by Conventual Franciscans since 1987. Franciscan Father Conall McHugh replaced Franciscan Father Canice Connors in 1991. Franciscan Father William Robinson, the present pastor, has served Our Lady of Mercy Church since 2002.

Like so many parishes in western North Carolina, Our Lady of Mercy Church has experienced tremendous growth in its Spanish-speaking population. To serve the Hispanic population, a weekly Spanish Mass was added in 1995.

Within the last 15 years, the parish's Hispanic population went from 37 people to more than 500. Hispanics now make up nearly 50 percent of the parish.

Faith formation and sacramental preparation programs are offered in Spanish as well as English. A parishioner has volunteered to serve as a liaison between the Hispanic and Anglo communities.

Hispanic parishioners also serve on the pastoral council and a variety of parish commissions.

More than 400 people attended the groundbreaking for a new church building Sept. 12. Father Robinson said he expects the new church to be ready for its dedication by September 2005.

The new bi-level facility will feature an upper-level church with seating for more than 850 worshippers and a fellowship hall and offices on the lower level.

The parish continues to focus on peacemaking, reconciliation and relationship building.

The mission statement of the church reflects the community's desire to serve others: "While rejoicing in all signs of integral communal life, Our Lady of Mercy community holds itself accountable for seeking out and welcoming the stranger and the alienated; for identifying with the powerless and those on the margins of society and for empathizing with the suffering and aggrieved."

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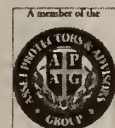
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OCTOBER 8, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 2

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Guardian angel

*Prisoner's prayers, faith
touch lives of others*

| PAGE 16

Enter the Internet

*Youth ministers begin
training online*

BY REV. MR. GERALD
POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

KERNERSVILLE — The Diocese of Charlotte has begun using an innovative, online ministry formation program for its youth ministers.

The Ministry Training Source program consists of 12 online courses of three modules each and is geared toward addressing the national competency based standards of youth ministers as specified by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The majority of the course work, spread over a two-year time span, is done online, but students are required to attend one face-to-face class. The first such class was held at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville Oct. 2.

During the class, seven

See TRAINING, page 8

Pets need God, too



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Capuchin Franciscan Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, blesses Angel, a hamster owned by Casey Jackson, 8, during the blessing of the animals at the church Oct. 3. Several dozen people brought their pets out for the annual blessing at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in correlation with Advent Lutheran Church in Charlotte. Pet blessings are popular in churches across the nation close to the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

FOR MORE COVERAGE RELATED TO ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, SEE PAGES 4 AND 14.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Pro-life official praises decision to appeal partial-birth rulings

RESEARCH SHOWS
LINK BETWEEN
INDUCED ABORTIONS
AND HEALTH ISSUES

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The pro-life spokeswoman for the U.S. Catholic bishops praised the Justice Department's Sept. 28 announcement that it would appeal federal court decisions in New York and Nebraska that ruled the federal ban on partial-birth abortions is unconstitutional.

"We commend the U.S. Department of Justice for its vigorous defense of the ban on partial-birth abortion," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"There is no place in a

See ABORTION, page 9

A CALLING TO CHARLOTTE

Diocese among highest in ordinations in country

VOCATIONS RECOGNIZED IN
GEORGETOWN STUDY

BY DAVID HAINS
special to
The Catholic News & Herald

CHARLOTTE — New statistics show that an increasing number of men are choosing to serve their vocations to the priesthood in the

Diocese of Charlotte.

A soon-to-be-released report from The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) of Georgetown University in Washington shows the Diocese of Charlotte to be 11th in terms of total ordinations to the priesthood in the last four years.

See VOCATIONS, page 5



FILE PHOTO

Seminarians in formation for the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte assist at the liturgy ordination of four new priests at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte in June 2001.



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Julia Varanavage and Stephanie Gardner work during a class for the online training program for diocesan youth ministers Oct. 2.

In Our Schools

Poetry inspires students;
School helps stamp out hunger

| PAGES 6-7

Culture Watch

Pope beatifies nun who
inspired Gibson's 'Passion'

| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives

'Roe Effect' killing pro-choice
moment; Discovering peace

| PAGES 14-15

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

MARCHING FOR MARRIAGE



Marchers carry a pro-marriage and family banner as they walk through the streets of San Francisco April 3. The rally was held in response to the city issuing more than 4,000 marriage licenses to same-sex couples from February to March, when the California Supreme Court ordered a halt to the practice.

House vote on amendment to ban same-sex marriage fails

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House of Representatives rejected a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages Sept. 30.

The Marriage Protection Amendment, backed by the nation's Catholic bishops, received 227 votes in favor to 186 against. To reach the two-thirds majority required for passage, it would have needed at least 290 votes.

In a letter to House members Sept. 28, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said marriage as the union of a man and a woman is not just a Catholic concern but "part of the common moral heritage of humanity."

"It is precisely this moral heritage that must be protected today from a small but vocal minority that would alter the definition of marriage by making same-sex unions the legal equivalent of marriage," Bishop Gregory wrote.

"A same-sex union is not equivalent to marriage," he added. "It is not based on the natural complementarity of male and female; it cannot cooperate with God to create new life; it cannot be a true conjugal union."

He said marriage "is more than a lifestyle choice. It is an interpersonal relationship with public significance."

The nation's bishops, he said "strongly believe that marriage is a basic human institution and that, though it is regulated by civil laws and church laws, it did not originate from either the church or the state, but from God. Accordingly, the bishops believe that nei-

ther church nor the state can alter the basic meaning and structure of marriage."

In referendums this summer, voters in Missouri and Louisiana overwhelmingly approved state constitutional amendments upholding the traditional definition of marriage, and voters in eight more states will be voting on similar amendments Nov. 2.

The proposed federal constitutional amendment said, "Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than a man and a woman."

The amendment was killed in the Senate in July by a procedural vote tabling it.

In September 2003, the 47-bishop Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement calling for a federal constitutional amendment to protect marriage as the union of a man and a woman. At their November meeting, the full body of bishops overwhelmingly approved a 2,000 word teaching statement on the nature of marriage in society and in church teaching.

In the national elections Nov. 2, state constitutional amendments to protect the traditional definition of marriage are on the ballot in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah.

Supreme Court declines Catholic Charities contraceptives case

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Oct. 4 declined to hear the appeal by Catholic Charities of Sacramento, Calif., of a ruling that would require some religious organizations to pay for employees' contraceptive insurance benefits.

The court rejected an appeal of the March ruling by the California Supreme Court that said Catholic Charities may not be exempted from a 1999 law requiring employers who provide insurance for prescriptions to include contraceptives.

Catholic Charities had challenged the law on the grounds that the church-sponsored organization should not be required to pay for something the church considers to be sinful.

The decision could affect universities, hospitals and social service agencies run by churches of all faiths. An appeal of at least one other state's similar law is

still pending in the courts.

California's Women's Contraceptive Equality Act has an exemption for "religious employers" but defines those as nonprofit institutions directly involved in inculcating religious beliefs, and whose employees and beneficiaries of services are primarily members of the faith group.

The state court ruling said Catholic Charities does not qualify because it offers secular services to the public without regard for the recipients' beliefs and without preaching about Catholic values. Catholics do not make up either a majority of its employees or a majority of the recipients of its services.

In his appeal to the federal court, Catholic Charities' attorney Kevin Baine said, "If the state of California can coerce Catholic agencies to pay for contraceptives, it can force them to pay for abortions."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church will hold two conferences Oct. 17 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the John XXIII Room on the topic of *Natural Family Planning and Contraception*. The presenter will be Father Richard M. Hogan, national speaker and author. He will also be the homilist on Oct. 16 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass and Oct. 17 at the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Contact the church office at (828) 684-6098 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "The Spirituality of Marriage" will be the topic at Eat at Matt's Oct. 16 following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Eat at Matt's is a potluck dinner with a speaker. St. Matthew will provide drinks, and all eating utensils. Father Carmen Malacari and Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik will be giving a presentation on strengthening your marriage whether you've been married 5, 10, 20 or more years. Childcare is available after dinner by reservation in Room 103. Call Jean Wren at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1011 to reserve childcare.

MINT HILL — G.E.M.S. Daily is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at

St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — What is contemplative prayer?

Bruce Hassett, a St. Matthew Church parishioner, will present a four-week course on Contemplative Spirituality. The program will meet in Room 104 of the New Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., 6:30-7:45 p.m. Oct. 12, 19 and 26. Come learn about this peaceful form of prayer and lifestyle. Call Sue VanderJeugd at (704) 541-8362 ext. 4 to register.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965 is being considered for the fall of 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to "Moving On," based on Susan Miller's book "After the Boxes are Unpacked." We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes meet Wednesdays through Nov. 17 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15-11:30 a.m. Call Gigi at (704) 895-3310 or Merry at (704) 947-9547 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery will

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FROM THE VATICAN

Benedictine nuns set to take over for Carmelites in Vatican cloister

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The “Mater Ecclesiae” cloister in the Vatican gardens combines a traditionally strict life of prayer and manual labor with the innovative practice of bringing in new residents every five years.

Pope John Paul II established the cloister in 1994 to ensure the presence of a perpetually praying community of women within the Vatican walls and to highlight the richness and variety of contemplative orders of women religious present in the Catholic Church.

His assistant secretary of state, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, celebrated Mass in the cloister Oct. 1. During the Mass, the archbishop thanked the Discalced Carmelite nuns who have lived, prayed and

tended a garden in the small monastery since 1999.

With the end of the Carmelite’s five-year service, a group of contemplative Benedictine nuns is preparing to take up residence in the monastery.

The monastery’s bylaws specify the aim of the community is “the ministry of prayer, adoration, praise and reparation” in silence and solitude “to support the Holy Father in his daily care for the whole church.”

During the Oct. 1 Mass, Archbishop Sandri thanked the Carmelites for their witness of “a profound and shared joy, which is a sign of an intense spiritual life, of a great love for the Holy Father and the church and of great agreement among yourselves in your daily tasks.”

Pope honors journalists for risking their lives in areas of conflict

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II paid tribute to journalists who, sometimes risking their lives, illustrate the need for peace and freedom in regions torn by conflict.

During an Oct. 2 audience with employees of KTO, a French Catholic television station, and with representatives of a French journal, *Politique Internationale*, the pope also condemned political hostage-taking.

The pope’s remarks were read as a reference to the ongoing wave of hostage-taking in Iraq as fears continued over the fate of two French journalists kidnapped in mid-August.

During the audience, the pope received the “Political Courage Prize” sponsored by the Catholic television sta-

tion and the international policy journal.

The pope said the prize highlighted “the church’s mission of peace in a world where conflicts are, unfortunately, too numerous.”

“I want to launch a new appeal for peace, for the building of a society of brotherhood among peoples,” he said.

“My thoughts go to journalists, who, through their witness and their publications, are artisans of peace and of liberty and who pay a heavy price in conflicts,” he said. “I am thinking, as well, about the hostages and their families, innocent victims of violence and hatred.”

The pope said human beings must never be used as bargaining chips for political or military power.

host a Spiritual Growth Seminar this fall. The final sessions will meet Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 7-8 p.m. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women’s Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumpdown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — All couples married 25 or 50 years this year will be honored at an *Anniversary Mass* Oct. 24 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Please call your church office if you wish to be included.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Walt (704) 535-7723.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *Faithful Citizenship Sessions* will be held at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Oct. 16, 6-7:30 p.m., and Oct. 17, 12:30-2 p.m. in the Parish Family Center. Each session will cover politics, elections, candidates and issues. No pre-registration or fees. For details, contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A *Charismatic Healing Mass* sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Parish Health Ministry and the Flames of Fire Prayer Group will be celebrated Oct. 15 at Our Lady of Grace Church from 7:30-9 p.m. Healing teams will be available for personal ministry after the Mass. For details call Maureen Cavanaugh at (336) 274-6520 ext. 30.

GREENSBORO — *The Health and Hispanic Culture Festival*, an afternoon of activities including music and traditional dances, food from various countries and free health screenings, will be held Oct. 17, 3-6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. For details call Maureen Cavanaugh at (336) 274-6520, ext. 30.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — *Pax Christi*, the Catholic peace organization, will have its next meeting Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Commons at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. All persons interested are welcome to attend.

MURPHY — St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., will sponsor its fifth season of *Renew*, a six-week spiritual renewal program. Small Christian communities of six to eight participants meet once a week, Oct. 17-Nov. 21, to share faith, find meaning, deepen relationships, pray, learn from one another and support each other in the struggle to live faith in all aspects of life. For more information, call Michael Kauffman at (828) 835-3310 or e-mail mskuffman@webworkz.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Church will celebrate its *50th Anniversary* Oct. 17 during the 11 a.m. bilingual Mass at the Barn at Tanglewood Park, Hwy. 158 west in Clemmons. A potluck picnic with family activities will follow. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 722-7001.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Navigating ‘Lake Jeanne’



CNS PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER GUNTY, FLORIDA CATHOLIC

A truckload of people enters Gonaives, Haiti, Oct. 2 via a road running through what was a dry wasteland now called “Lac Jeanne,” or Lake Jeanne. Since Tropical Storm Jeanne passed through the area Sept. 18 killing more than 3,000 and leaving as many as a quarter-million homeless, the only access to Gonaives is through the lake, which is two miles long and 3 to 8 feet deep.

In Mexico City, Dalai Lama leads prayers for world peace

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Dalai Lama joined Mexico City Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera and other Mexican religious leaders in prayers for world peace while calling for mutual understanding among the world’s religions.

In an interreligious ceremony held in Mexico City’s Metropolitan Cathedral, the Dalai Lama urged people not to blame religion for the world’s conflicts, saying wars often have more worldly motives “such as money, power and politics.”

“There are some that think there is a clash between the Western civilization and Islam. I think they are wrong,” the Dalai Lama said Oct. 4, the second day of his four-day visit to Mexico.

Cardinal Rivera praised the Dalai Lama for campaigning for peace and human rights around the world.

“You, Dalai Lama, have done honor to your title, which means ‘ocean of wisdom,’” Cardinal Rivera said.

The Dalai Lama, smiling the entire time, said he would remember the ceremony and Mexico City’s cathedral as long as he lived.

The ceremony included religious leaders from Mexico’s Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and Greek Orthodox communities, as well as from several Protestant faiths.

The Dalai Lama and about 100,000 Tibetan Buddhists fled into exile in India in 1959 when China, responding to an uprising against its rule, crushed a rebellion and placed tight controls on Buddhist monasteries. China’s occupation of Tibet began in 1950.

The Dalai Lama received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

SAINTLY SERVICE

Secular Franciscans honor St. Francis with Transitus service

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — The teen-age Francis of Assisi was a romantic troubadour and center of attraction among his peers. Like many wealthy young men during the 1200s, Francis donned armor and rode off to war in neighboring towns.

But Francis was captured and imprisoned. During this time, the grandeur of knighthood turned into the stark reality of bare existence and Francis developed a compassion for the poor, said Ruth Thoni, minister of the Fraternity of Brother Francis, the Hickory-based Secular Franciscans Order.

Thoni spoke at the group's annual Transitus service at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Oct. 3. This month annually, members of Franciscan religious and secular orders around the globe gather to commemorate the passage of St. Francis from earthly life to everlasting life.

The feast of St. Francis, patron saint of animals and the environment, is Oct. 4.

After dedicating himself to poverty and humility, Francis' good

works, devotion to the Eucharist and preaching drew many followers. He founded the Friars Minor, or Franciscans, which now has more than 28,000 priests and brothers serving around the world.

During the service, the Hickory Secular Franciscans presented several stories from the life of St. Francis, who was born at Assisi in Umbria around 1181; one story was about the miracle of the stigmata (wounds of the crucifixion) received by Francis in September 1224.

After God appeared to Francis and told him something wonderful was to happen to him, Francis consulted the Gospels, asking a friend to open them three times at random. Each time, the book opened to the story of the Passion of Christ.

From this, Francis understood that, having imitated Christ in life, he was also to imitate him in the sufferings that preceded his death in 1226.

Francis was praying one morning when a seraphim appeared to him. Afterward, Francis' hands and feet appeared to have black nails driven through them, and he had a wound on his side that looked as though it had been made with a lance. The wounds never healed or disappeared and were still there when he died two years later.

Franciscans seek to imitate the life of Christ in the way that St. Francis did, by consulting the Gospels for guidance, said Thoni.

Secular Franciscans promise to devote themselves especially to careful reading of the Gospels — going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel — as St. Francis is known for taking the Gospels literally. Franciscan values include creating a caring community, showing compassion for others, respecting and caring for God's creation, and making peace through healing, reconciliation and forgiveness.

"When we come together, we counsel one another as a group," said Thoni. "People who are attracted to Francis embrace this way of looking at God."

About 30 people attended the service, which followed with a movie about the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.



PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Secular Franciscan Yong Sun Thompson lights candles to symbolize St. Francis of Assisi's life during the annual Transitus service at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Oct. 3.

Blessing the furry friends



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, performs a blessing of the animals at the church Oct. 2. Pet blessings are popular in churches across the nation close to the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH 7:00 PM
Duncan Stroik - Architect, Professor at the University of Notre Dame, and Editor of the journal "Sacred Architecture" will speak on Building Sacred Architecture Today

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 7:00 PM
Anthony Visco - Professor at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and professional artist will speak on Catholic Art and the Liturgy of Place

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"The critical factor for success appears to be communication."

Diocese among highest in ordinations in country

VOCATIONS, from page 1

"The Charlotte Diocese seems to be attracting (a number of) men to the priesthood that is out of proportion to its population," said Dr. Mary Gautier, CARA senior research associate.

CARA was created in 1964 by the bishops and religious superiors of the United States as an independent agency to assist church leaders in planning, using the tools of social science research.

A majority of the dioceses reporting gains in ordinations have more than 1 million Catholics. Most have seminaries within their borders.

According to CARA, the Diocese of Charlotte has the smallest number of Catholics among the top 11 dioceses with high ordinations, with a population of 138,000 registered Catholics and an estimated 125,000 unregistered Hispanics. Priests are trained outside the diocese because there are no seminaries within the western 46 counties of North Carolina.

CARA statistics show that 20 men have been ordained to the priesthood in the diocese between 2000 and



FILE PHOTO

Father John Allen, diocesan vocations director, chats with Pat Hoare, a former insurance company vice president and seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, at the Cardinal Newman Residence for Priestly Formation in Charlotte in 2002.

2003. The report lists a ratio of 6,929 Catholics per newly ordained priest (or ordinand) for the Diocese of Charlotte. By comparison, the number one diocese in attracting men is the Archdiocese of Chicago, which has ordained 46 priests in the same time frame as the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Archdiocese of Chicago has more than 2.4 million Catholics and the ratio of approximately 53,000 Catholics per ordinand is far higher than that of the Diocese of Charlotte.

According to Gautier, there is no

single factor that makes a diocese successful when it comes to attracting men to serve as priests.

"It begs the question, 'What are these places doing right?' and is worth more study," she said.

Father John Allen, director of vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte, attributes the success in the diocese to several factors.

"We require all priests to live in the diocese for a year before they can begin seminary education, and they must be recommended by a priest of the diocese," he said. "Our priests are the best source of referrals for us."

The typical seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte has completed at least two years of college and has achieved academic success, said Father Allen. All candidates for the seminary also go through extensive

background checks and undergo psychological testing.

But personal contact is the key to success, said Father Allen.

"Our priests and the bishop have regular contact with the men who are in the seminary and the communication continues once they are ordained," he said.

Father Allen expressed pride in the number of men who are coming to the diocese to answer their vocations. He noted that all of the men who were ordained during the last five years are still in active service.

That statistic is unusual for a diocese, according to Dr. Dean Hoge, a sociologist at the Catholic University of America in Washington, who has written a book about turnover among priests during the first five years.

"Priests resign during the first five years because they are lonely and unappreciated or because they decide that the celibate lifestyle will not work for them," said Hoge.

"The critical factor for success appears to be communication," he said. "Men who feel they can talk with their bishop or vicar general are usually happier in their vocation."

Hoge also pointed out that serving in a smaller diocese is advantageous to the happiness of priests.

"In some large dioceses, the bishop or cardinal doesn't even know the name of all the priests," he said.

The Diocese of Charlotte has 135 diocesan and religious order priests serving the needs of the faithful. A large diocese, such as the Diocese of Chicago, has as many as 800 priests.

Want More Info?

For more information about vocations, contact Father John Allen at (704) 543-1127 ext. 3153, e-mail frallen@catholicexchange.com, or visit the diocesan vocations Web page at www.charlottediocese.org/seminarians.

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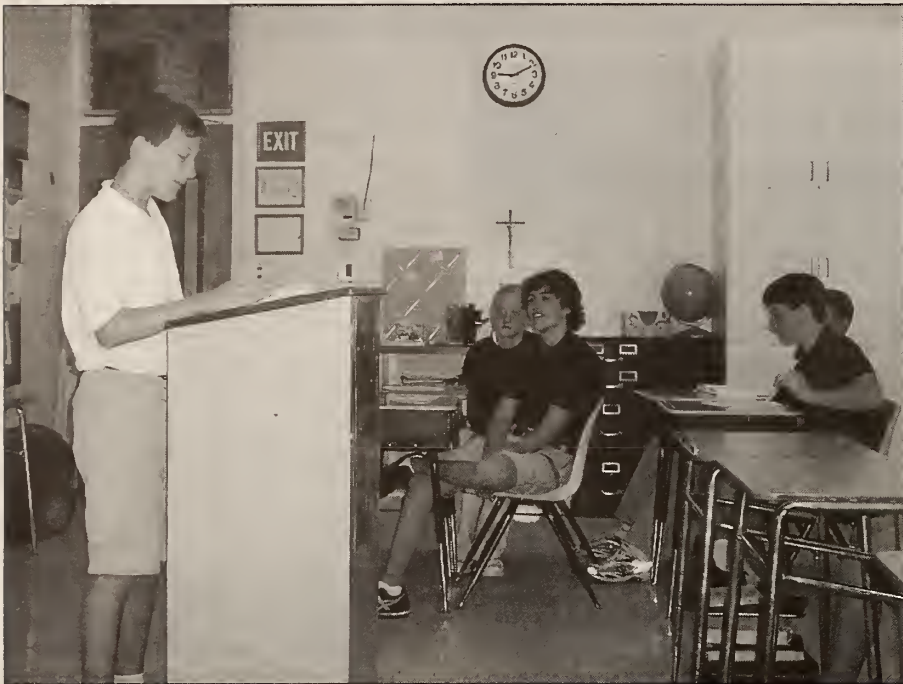


PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

A student reads his original poem during the weeklong poetry residency with poet Dan Dutterer at Asheville Catholic School Sept. 20-24.

Poetry residency inspires Catholic students

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students at Asheville Catholic School recently took a new look at themselves through poetry.

Asheville poet Dan Dutterer participated in a weeklong poetry residency with performances for students Sept. 20-24.

A familiar performer with local groups, most recently with the Montford Park Players in a Shakespearean production, Dutterer said he wanted to impress the way he sees things upon the students, hoping they would see things in new ways.

"The more we search and the more we journey into ourselves to find what things mean to us, the more we unravel," he said.

Poetry is fun "if you let your mind go," he said. "It's a seed. You plant the seed, nurture it, take care of it and it will grow into something with strong roots."

In working with the students, Dutterer found the "younger the child, the more fertile the mind is, the less inhibited."

The older children have to work a little harder to become spontaneous and not worry about what their classmates might think of their

poetry, he said.

Once the students relaxed, Dutterer explained how they can start with their own images and then take them a step further.

"Poetry paints a picture," he said. "Each word is like a brushstroke in that painting."

In the seventh-grade workshop, Dutterer said the students learned that inspiration "comes from a lot of places."

Several students wrote and recited original poems and discussed what had inspired them.

Ian Wilson said his poem, "Something," was inspired by two of his classmates after he struggled to find something about which to write. The class chose it to perform before the student body during the Friday assembly, which featured a poem read by each grade participating in the poetry residency.

Dutterer, who has a bachelor's degree in theatre arts from Catawba College in Salisbury, believes children can absorb and understand literature, poetry and art if the subjects are explored on their levels.

He hoped the students would take away the joy of poetry, and "a plethora of things they can do with it."

Poetry, he said, is something that will "make a dent or a scratch in your mind, and it will stay there forever."

Look out, Tiger

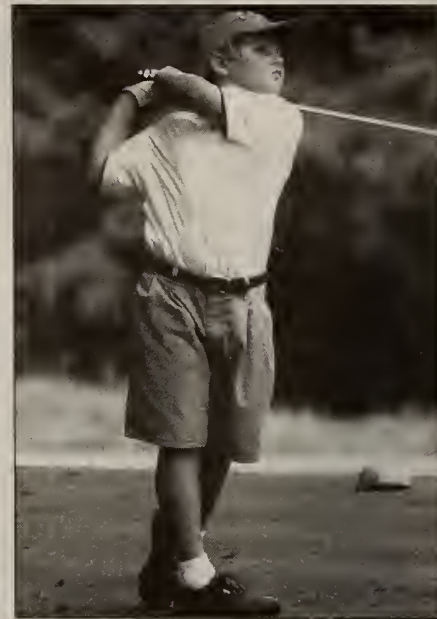
Third-grader scores big on the greenway

HIGH POINT — Tanner Owen, a third-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, recently won a regional Drive, Chip and Putt contest in Kentucky that earns him a trip to the national competition in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 23.

There he will compete with young golfers from across the country. The tournament will be televised on the Golf Channel on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25.

Owen also recently won the National Junior Golf Club's Future Pro of the Year award in the 6-to-9-year-old age group.

With a stroke average of 76, Tanner has earned first place in six North Carolina golf tournaments hosted by the club this year. He also has won second place in the club's Southeast Regional Tour Championship in South Carolina.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tanner Owen, a third-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, recently won a golf contest that earns him a trip to the national competition in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 23.

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Attendance information, including cost, travel, hotel/motel accommodations, and schedule of talks may be found at www.bradleyinstitute.org or by calling 704-829-7231. Belmont Abbey College is located 15 miles south of Charlotte, NC, at Exit 26, on I-85.

This Symposium is under the auspices of the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College. Funding has been received from the Ingersoll Foundation, the Earhart Foundation and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

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St. Pius X School has 100 percent participation in Crop Walk

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X School in Greensboro again took to the streets to help fight hunger.

Students, faculty and parent volunteers participated in their fourth annual Crop Walk Oct. 1. Each class walked for a half hour during the course of the day to help raise funds for the hungry in Greensboro and throughout the world.

Before blessing the participants at the start of the walk, Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, evoked the words of Mother Teresa: "Small things done with love can help change the world."

Pat Arnett, director of development for Crop Walk, was present for the opening ceremonies and expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the students and faculty.

This is but one of many Crop Walks arranged by religious communities, schools, businesses and civic

organizations throughout the area. While 75 percent of the funds raised will go to Church World Service, an international relief agency that provides emergency aid and supports sustainable self-help development in 80 poverty-stricken countries, the remaining funds will go toward the Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen to help feed more than 350 people daily.

A percentage of donations this year will also be used to help the people in the Caribbean and the southern United States recover from the recent onslaught of devastating hurricanes.

"We collected a total of \$23,000 during the three previous years," said Anne Knapki, assistant principal. "During those last three years, funding for food was made available to the heroes of 9/11, as well as the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan."

Expectations were high this year as 100 percent of the students participated in the Crop Walk, she said.

The school's fundraising efforts began shortly after Labor Day, when letters were sent home to parents about the student body's goal of raising \$10,000, according to Vicki



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Teachers Blair Stetson and Sheri Bednar and parent volunteer Kristin Hardcastle get ready to walk with first-grade students at the beginning of their Crop Walk at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Oct. 1.

Spriegle, who organizes the school and parish Crop Walks.

"It is really getting easier as each year passes, especially with the fantastic amount of parental involvement and the eighth-grade volunteers," said Spriegle.

Each student also purchased a Crop Walk T-shirt financed by local businesses, the profits of which were contributed to the Crop Walk.

"It is important because we raise money for people who are in need," said eighth-grader Meg Weckworth, who has participated in the school Crop Walk for the last three years.

"We also like helping people."

"It's great that the kids realize what they have and what other people don't have, and that they're willing to help," said Kristin Schiott, athletic director and physical education teacher.

All proceeds collected by St. Pius X School will be added to the overall contributions of the parish Crop Walk, which will take place at the Greensboro Coliseum Oct. 10, one of five area walks scheduled that day. Participants are encouraged to bring canned food items to their walk for Greensboro's Urban Ministry's Food Bank.

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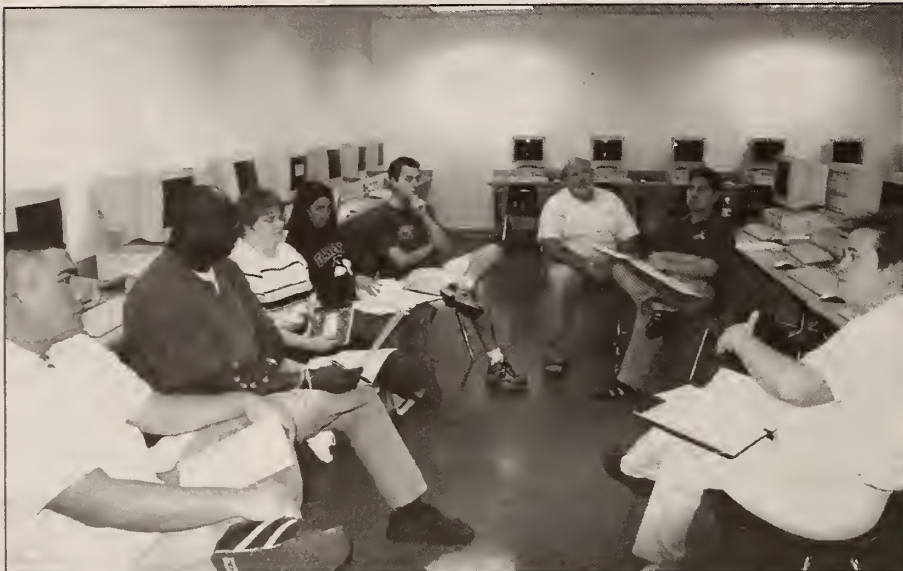


PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Leigh Sterten (right) instructs the inaugural class in a new online ministry formation program for diocesan youth ministers.

Youth ministers begin training online

TRAINING, from page 1

youth ministers and teachers from parishes throughout the diocese spent eight hours with instructor Leigh Sterten, program creator and co-founder of Ministry Training Source, a nonprofit organization that trains, forms and educates individuals and organizations to be more effective ministers in the church.

"This program is but one of many ways used in the training of youth ministers, but handbook formation and independent studies are not as complete as the Ministry Training Source," said Peg Ruble, assistant director of diocesan youth ministry. "It is unique in that it is both structured and independent at the same time."

The cost of the program ranges \$2,500-\$3000, depending whether or not the students need computers. The cost is usually carried by the students but can be paid, completely or in part, by the students' parishes.

Although the course work is done online, students are encouraged to work together in their studies for the purpose of review, focus and information retention. The end result is a certificate or a

bachelor's or master's degree, depending on the education level previously achieved by the student.

"I have been working on this program for a little more than a year and it is awesome," said Terry Aiken, youth ministry director at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

"This program is long overdue for the National Certification for Youth Ministers," said Aiken. "It has validated and affirmed that we are on the right track, especially through its relationship building and creativity."

"I have learned quite a bit about my own learning styles and have been enabled to take the kids to another level," he added. "When we can learn something like this from a youth ministry program and can teach the kids how to be leaders, we know that it's working for us in a very positive way."

Chad Thieman, youth minister at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir, said the program has already taught him how to better budget his time and be a better spiritual leader.

"I have become knowledgeable with issues of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and youth ministry," he said. "I believe more people should take advantage of the program."

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Partial-birth abortion rulings praised

ABORTION, from page 1

society for this cruel and inhumane practice," she said in a Sept. 30 statement.

In a Sept. 8 ruling, U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf in Nebraska became the third federal judge this year to declare the partial-birth abortion ban unconstitutional. He said the 2003 law should have included an exception allowing that type of abortion to be used in cases where the woman's health is in danger. The only exception to the ban is when the mother's life is at risk.

Supporters of the ban say that a health provision would have rendered the legislation virtually meaningless because of the broad definition of maternal health given by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 in its decisions to legalize abortion.

New York District Judge Richard C. Casey said in August that the Supreme Court has clearly called for health exceptions in such laws, and San Francisco federal Judge Phyllis Hamilton said in June that the law's lack of exceptions "poses an undue burden on a woman's right to choose an abortion."

The Justice Department has already appealed the San Francisco ruling strik-

ing down the ban. The partial-birth abortion cases are expected to be appealed eventually to the Supreme Court.

The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act was signed into law by President Bush last November, but the federal judges in San Francisco, New York and Nebraska each issued temporary restraining orders to prevent enforcement of the ban in response to lawsuits filed by Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the National Abortion Federation and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

The law bars a type of abortion that is usually performed in the second or third trimester. In the procedure, a live fetus is partially delivered, then the skull is punctured to sever the brain stem before the whole body is delivered. Under the law, doctors who perform such abortions, which are also known to physicians as "intact dilation and extraction," are subject to up to two years in prison.

"We are hopeful that the ban on partial-birth abortion ultimately will be upheld," said Ruse. "But no matter how the legal questions are finally resolved, these trials will have accomplished something extremely significant: They will have gotten the abortion industry

Standing for life



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of the Aragona family, parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, hold pro-life placards during a Life Chain on University City Boulevard on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 3. The Life Chain was one of at least two dozen taking place around the Diocese of Charlotte.

on the record, under oath, admitting the horrifying truth about abortion."

Meanwhile, in a separate statement on another abortion-related matter, Ruse said she was pleased that testimony on the aftereffects of abortion was included in a Sept. 29 hearing conducted by the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on "Improving Women's Health: Understanding Depression After Pregnancy."

The hearing, which was chaired by Rep. Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla., included testimony from a woman who said she suffered profoundly after her abortion and a physician who has researched the physical and psychological effects of induced abortion.

"After 31 years, abortion continues to be an unchecked and unstudied experiment on women," said Ruse. "We are

grateful to Chairman Bilirakis for shedding light on the reality of women's experience with abortion."

"For all of our education and beliefs that we live in a society that values women, abortion continues to be the biggest assault against women," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life ministry. "The fall-out to a woman who as had an abortion is immense and may take years for her to heal. We must continue to speak the truth: abortion hurts women."

Dr. Elizabeth Shadigian, a professor of obstetrics at the University of Michigan, testified that her research has shown links between induced abortions and an increased risk of suicide, preterm birth and breast cancer.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Pope beatifies five, including nun who inspired Gibson film

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Advancing the sainthood causes of five Europeans, Pope John Paul II beatified the nun whose visions inspired Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ."

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, the pope said, showed heroic patience and firm faith in dealing with years of ill health. The pope did not mention the German mystic's controversial book of visions on Christ's final days, for which she is best known.

Biographies of the newly beatified were read aloud at the start of the Oct. 3 Mass in St. Peter's Square. Some 20,000

Jesus Christ." A few of the details in the book made it into his film — as when Mary and Mary Magdalene use towels furnished by Pontius Pilate's wife to wipe up the blood of the scourged Christ.

Jewish leaders have said the negative portrayal of Jews in her writings was picked up and popularized by the Gibson film.

The biography in the beatification Mass booklet said Blessed Emmerich's words have reached innumerable people and represent "an outstanding proclamation of the Gospel." But her mystic writings received only a passing reference during the Mass, and the pope did not mention them at all in his sermon.

Before the liturgy, Vatican experts said the writings had been discarded as evidence during the sainthood review process because it was uncertain whether she actually wrote the book.

Sister Emmerich was practically illiterate, and her visions were transcribed and elaborated by a popular romantic poet, Clemens Brentano, who published them after Sister Emmerich's death at age 49 in 1824.

The four others beatified were:

— Austrian Charles I, who died in exile in 1922 and had a commitment to Christian values.

— French Father Joseph-Marie Cassant, a Cistercian monk who was best known for his prayer life and his devotion to the Eucharist. He died of tuberculosis in 1903 at the age of 25.

— Italian Sister Ludovica de Angelis, a member of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, who gained fame for her work at a church-run children's hospital in Buenos Aires. She died in 1962.

— French Father Pierre Vigne, an "itinerant missionary" of the 17th and 18th centuries, who would sometimes carry his confessional on his back as he walked through rural France. His devotion to the Eucharist led him to found the Congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. He died at the age of 70 in 1740.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Tapestries with the images of newly Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich and Charles I of Austria hang from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 3.

people, including several hundred European royalty, applauded when tapestry portraits of the five "blesseds" were unveiled on the face of St. Peter's Basilica.

The pope praised Blessed Emmerich's identification with the suffering of Christ, noting that she bore the stigmata, the wounds of the crucifixion. She entered an Augustinian convent in 1802, where she was bedridden for years. She soon became known for her visions of the supernatural and "conversations" with Jesus.

Gibson said he was inspired to make his movie after reading Sister Emmerich's book of visions, "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord and Savior

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 17, 2004

Oct. 17, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Exodus 17:8-13

Psalm 121:1-8

2) 2 Timothy 3:14 to 4:2

3) Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Though disheartened, we can still find salvation through God

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Kathy first learned that she had breast cancer two years ago. She was mildly concerned, but, buoyed by advances in cancer treatment, she and her family set about the business of fighting the disease.

Kathy is a popular, involved member of her church community, which was alarmed by her diagnosis and immediately provided strong spiritual and moral support to her, her husband Tom and teen-age children. Parishioners have prayed for her every Sunday at Mass in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Meanwhile, she continues her active participation in parish life — always visible in the choir and always obviously missing when she is in the midst of a round of chemotherapy. She and Tom work at keeping their spirits up despite

suffering setback after setback in dealing with a cancer that is particularly resistant to treatment.

They constantly pray, while maintaining normalcy in their children's lives. She constantly prays, while continuing to be an interested, supportive mom, even as a daughter graduates from high school and goes off to college and as a son enters high school and works on his Boy Scout Eagle project. She prays and keeps up her routine of driving him to activities and attending important family, church and school events.

Appearing alternately healthy and frail, as her doctors try numerous, different treatments, she has been resolute in simply living life as well as she can and praying.

The cancer has spread now to her liver and brain, and one recent weekend after beginning yet another kind of treatment she was at church, in the choir, seemingly at peace. Just before Mass started she walked over to her mother, who sat in a wheelchair at the end of the front pew next to Tom. She gave her a kiss. At the Prayers of the Faithful, Kathy's name was spoken, and we all said, "Lord, hear our prayer."

And today's Gospel reminds us that if we call out to God day and night, as Moses did when he tired, as Jesus did when he wearied and as Kathy does when she is disheartened and in pain, God will hear our prayer and bring salvation.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 10 - OCTOBER 16

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; **Monday**, Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday**, Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday**, Galatians 5:18-25, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Callistus I)**, Ephesians 1:1-10, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Teresa of Avila)**, Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Marguerite d'Youville)**, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 12:8-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17 - OCTOBER 23

Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2, Luke 18:1-8; **Monday (St. Luke)**, 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Tuesday (Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions)**, Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Ephesians 3:2-12, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday**, Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday**, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday (St. John of Capistrano)**, Ephesians 4:7-16, Luke 13:1-9.

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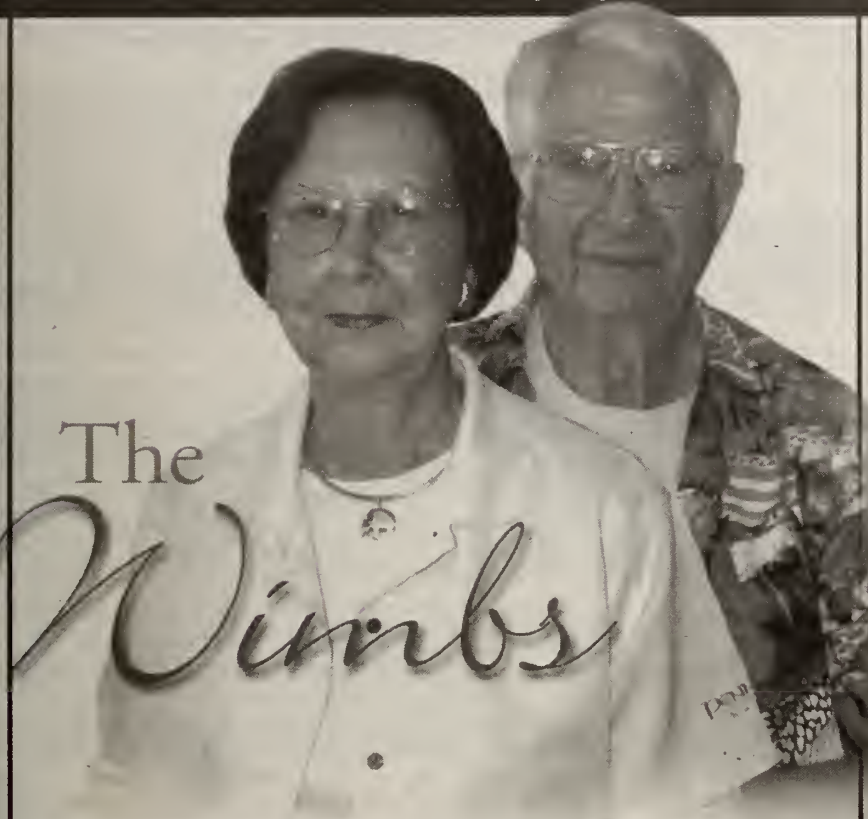
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As FCC starts new digital TV push, new public interest rules urged

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the Federal Communications Commission launched a major new joint industry-government education campaign Oct. 4 to speed up America's switch to digital television, protesters outside FCC headquarters called on the commission to spell out broadcasters' public interest obligations.

The protesters were leaders of the Public Interest, Public Airwaves Coalition, a diverse group of 25 religious and civic organizations seeking to reverse the near-collapse of public interest broadcasting in the wake of deregulation over the past decade.

"We strongly urge the commission to include the public interest in any discussion of the digital television transition," nine coalition members said in a Sept. 30 letter asking FCC Chairman Michael Powell to include consumer or public interest representatives along with the TV industry executives on the two educational panels that followed the press conference.

Among the signers was Katherine Grincewich, assistant general counsel of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, one of several religious organizations in the coalition.

"A public education campaign that fails to include the public perspective and the public interest is a charade," the coalition members said.

In digital television (DTV), a broadcaster transmits sound and pictures as a stream of millions of discrete information bits, unlike the analog waves that form standard radio and TV transmissions.

The FCC plans to drop analog TV broadcasting when 85 percent of homes in a broadcast area have digital capability, but Powell said that the question of how the 85 percent will be counted is still "hotly contested." He said public safety needs are among top priorities for use of the old broadcast frequencies when they are freed up.

The Coalition said an education campaign on DTV ought to "include the interests and concerns of the American public" and "tell Americans not only what is available from a technical point of view, but also how digital television will serve them."

"The commission needs to inform Americans how digital television has the potential to ensure that Americans have greater access to public affairs programming especially related to local civic and electoral affairs," it said.

The coalition sharply criticized the commission for not addressing the issue of federal public interest rules in the DTV age. "Nearly five years after the FCC posed the question of how television broadcasters should serve the public interest with their increased digital capacity, the FCC remains silent," it said.

Two weeks earlier the coalition praised a vote in the Senate Commerce Committee amending a broadcast-related bill to require the FCC to establish "minimum quantitative guidelines for locally originated programming, local electoral and public affairs programming and independently produced programming for television broadcast licensees."

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Making strides for a breast cancer cure



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Deborah Hiles, secretary for *The Catholic News and Herald*, (center) participates in the 2004 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Oct. 2. Hiles and other Pastoral Center employees joined 13,350 runners and walkers in the 5K event, which raised more than \$900,000 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

"My mom was an ardent supporter of this cause until breast cancer took her life in 2001," said Jenn Chavarie, MACS administrative assistant, who walked with Hiles. "I've tried to step up in her place, and it is incredibly awe inspiring to witness firsthand how much the race grows each year."



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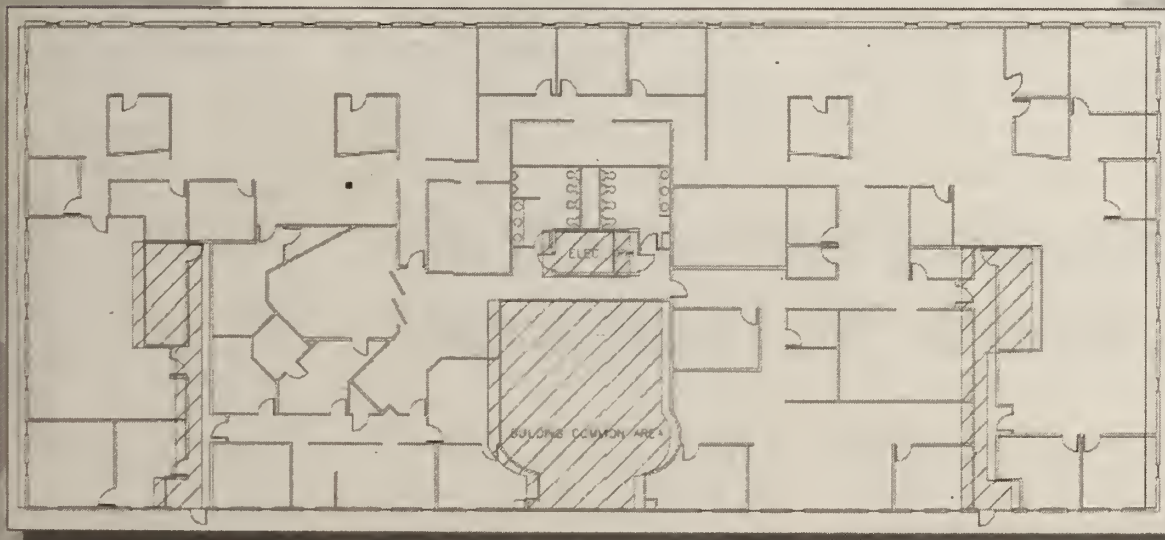


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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

How much difference one person can make

Even small kindnesses are worthwhile

Do you ever wonder if one person can make a difference in the world? If so, think about this.

In 1989, Armenia was hit with a devastating earthquake. In just four minutes, 30,000 people died as buildings collapsed in ruins.

Just after the earthquake struck, a man was seen running toward the city, looking for his young son. He always had promised his son, "Armand, no matter what happens, I will be there for you."

The man ran toward his son's elementary school, but when he arrived all he found was a heap of rubble. He walked to where he believed his son's classroom was located and with his bare hands he began to dig.

"Don't bother," a bystander moaned in grief. "They're all dead."

"I promised my son I would be there for him," the father replied. "Are you going to stand there and criticize or are you going to help me?"

Silently the bystander began to work alongside the father, moving slabs of concrete and shards of glass. Others joined in. For hours on end they worked.

Eventually the others grew tired, leaving the father alone to dig into the night. For 24 hours he dug. Thirty hours. Thirty-two. His hands were bloody and his body ached, but still he dug.

After 34 hours he thought he heard a faint sound beneath him. "Armand, is that you?" the father sobbed.

"Papa!" a small voice called.

The man shouted for help and soon a crowd gathered to dig out his son. But it wasn't just Armand. They quickly found another child, then another. When they were finished, 14 of the 32 children were saved.

As the father carried his son to safety, Armand was heard calling to his classmates: "See? Didn't I tell you that my father would be there for me?"

That's an extreme example, but even in everyday life, one person can make a difference. I know, because it happened to me.

I'd just finished the saddest day of my life as I watched my younger sister die. The next day I bumped into an acquaintance who was anxious to help, especially when she learned that my older sister and her family would be arriving from across the country later that day, and that I had to feed and

Coming of Age

REGINA CRAM
CNS COLUMNIST



house 13 people overnight before heading out of state for the funeral.

Two hours later there was a knock at the door. This same woman was standing on our doorstep holding dinner for 13: two huge casseroles, an enormous salad, bread, warm brownies and a bottle of wine. I've never forgotten her kindness.

We often feel that a situation is so overwhelming that we can't possibly change it. But even small kindnesses are worthwhile.

There is a story told about a guy who was strolling on the beach when he discovered thousands of starfish that had been washed up onto the sand and were quickly dying. One by one, the man began to toss the starfish back into the water.

A bystander scoffed at him. "There are thousands of them! You can't possibly make a difference!"

The beachcomber silently picked up a starfish, tossed it into the water and replied, "I just made a difference to that one."

Even if we cannot overcome the huge problems of the world, we can make a difference in our little corner. If you don't believe me, just ask Armand.

Pope speaks of marriage commitment, prays couples have children

CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II dedicated his Oct. 6 general audience to married couples who live their commitment to each other with intensity and joy, and he prayed they would bring children into the world.

During the audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope also asked Catholics to celebrate the Oct. 7 feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and to make the rosary "your daily prayer."

Pope John-Paul read only six sentences of his prepared text about the second half of Psalm 45, the wedding hymn for the messianic king, which is used in the church's evening prayer.

The pope said the psalm's celebration of marriage "permits us to dedicate it to all spouses who live their marriage with intensity and interior freshness."

Greeting Spanish-speaking pilgrims, the pope said, "We pray to the Lord for all married couples called to offer new life, the continuation of civilization and of the history of salvation."

The pope's remarks came five days after the Cabinet of the Spanish government — in a move strongly opposed by the Catholic Church — approved a bill that would allow homosexuals to marry and adopt children.

The Spanish Parliament is scheduled to vote on the draft bill later this fall. If the legislation passes, Spain would become only the third country in the world to legalize gay marriages, after the Netherlands and Belgium.

In his main talk, the pope said it was revealing how Psalm 45 "exalts the woman: she is 'all glorious,' and this magnificence is expressed in her wed-

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



ding gown, threaded with gold and enriched with precious embroidery."

"The Bible loves beauty as a reflection of the splendor of God himself," the pope's prepared text said. "Even clothing can be a sign of blazing interior light and of a soul's brightness."

It is no coincidence, the text said, that the wedding hymn ends with a prayer for the couple's future children.

Fertility is a "reality radically inserted in matrimony," the pope's text said. "The future, not only of the dynasty (of the psalm's couple) but of humanity, is possible precisely because the couple offers new creatures to the world."

"This is a relevant theme for our time, in the West so frequently incapable of entrusting its existence to the future through the generation and safeguarding of new creatures," the text said.

New generations, educated in love and responsibility, are the future of all civilizations and, through them, God will continue to carry out the salvation he wills for all people, it said.

The Vatican's English summary of the pope's text called marriage "a life-altering event and an authentic sign of the 'great mystery' of the Father's love for humanity and Christ's love for his church."

Respecting the sanctity of creation as St. Francis did

On a summer day, I was treated to a private tour of spectacular gardens in Massachusetts by Charlie Spencer, who I had known as a radio talk-show host in Springfield, Mass. We had talked by phone several times about our faith and the saints we love, and how our lives were shaped by the powerful biblical truths that took root in us.

But we found we had another common ground — our love for all of creation according to the teachings and example of St. Francis of Assisi.

At Stanley Park in Westfield, Spencer supervises the care of an immense, impressive American wildflower garden. He said he chose to work nurturing wildflowers "because each one has a name." In this he expressed his deep respect for the indi-

viduality of each one of God's woodland "creatures."

Spencer is one of 18,000 Third Order Franciscans in the United States and a member of the U.S.-based Ecology Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order. He called St. Francis "the patron saint of ecology," noting that it was fitting that his followers would place importance on "developing a 'brother and sister' relationship to all creation."

This would make us peacemakers, like St. Francis, bringing witness to the many forms of earthly desecration "caused by ignorance or injustice."

Spencer founded "National Wildflower Week," now sponsored by his secular Franciscan order, and is responsible for introducing about 500

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE
BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



wildflower gardens around the United States. Spencer's wildflower work is inspired by St. Francis' teaching on our "kinship to creation," which the great saint underscored because he saw that humankind was always in danger of forgetting the sanctity of creation.

Spencer has long known that because of his mentor, St. Francis, who removed from the road even little worms, "lest they be crushed under foot."

In sharing his love of wildflowers with me, Spencer reminded me of how and why St. Francis, looking at the humblest of plants, would be moved to praise God!

How to rediscover peace

Sharing time leads to inner calm

On a recent drive back from Chicago to Washington, I stopped at my favorite resting place, St. Vincent's Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa. It is a monastery with a college, so it bustles with activity. Yet, when I am there I am at peace.

While staying overnight, I fell asleep to the melodious sound of crickets and awoke to singing birds. A better accompaniment to restfulness you could not find.

On my way to breakfast, I looked out over the countryside surrounding the monastery — rolling hills dotted by trees and lush fields. I allowed the wonder of God's peace to fill me.

On this particular visit, I learned yet another lesson about peace. Peace is generated by wholesome sharing. Many of the monks have become close friends — people with whom I can share my ideas freely, especially my inner feelings. In my conversations with them, I have had this experience often, even though it is momentary. We connect and are "all there" for each other.

Interestingly, the wonderful theologian Father Romano Guardini defined the power of stillness and peace as "being all there." He meant that

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



we're all there when we focus our whole being on another, leaving self out of the picture.

On that same trip home, I happened to stay at a rectory in order to meet with a friend who was visiting there. While there, the pastor came in, sat down and gave us his undivided attention. He was "all there" with us. Though I only stayed overnight, it was so refreshing to experience this hospitality and to feel at one with him.

As I reflected on this, it dawned on me that as bad as the priesthood shortage is, if we who are priests could be "all there" for each other, even though momentarily, we would not only find the strength to carry on,

but probably would be a happier priesthood and attract more vocations. I believe this holds true for all of us facing tensions and seemingly hopeless situations.

When we feel someone is all there for us, it tends to free us up to be ourselves. Buried problems come to the surface and are aired out. Exciting aspirations are shared. New insights are generated. Hope is revived. What is more important, our spirit is refreshed and renewed.

When an Italian says that he or she is doing well, a phrase that is used is "non si preoccupare" — I am not preoccupied. In other words, I am not being torn apart by going in many directions. I am focused and "all there."

Today it is so easy to be preoccupied by events or concerns that destroy our peace. The daily news more often than not is disturbing, and no matter where we look we can't seem to find serenity. If you feel you are at the end of your rope, find a friend who is all there for you and be all there for him or her.

Spend time sharing, and see if it doesn't restore that inner calm you seek.

How to make a 4-year-old laugh

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



Want to make a 4-year-old crack up? Make her think you are the funniest thing since the dog chewing peanut butter?

Say, "So, tell me about SquareBob SpongePants."

After he or she has composed himself or herself, the 4-year-old will say, "No, it's SpongeBob SquarePants."

"What's the difference?" I asked.

"It's SpongeBob SquarePants."

"You just said that," I replied. "So why can't you call him SquareBob SpongePants?"

More laughing.

"Hey," I said defending myself, "the guy is square and he is a sponge, so why can't we call him SquareBob SpongePants?"

Until recently the name "SpongeBob SquarePants" had no significance to me. Then I learned that SpongeBob is my granddaughter Melody's favorite cartoon character.

Yes, it was important that I watch an episode of SpongeBob with her.

Now I know a lot about SpongeBob. He is a sea sponge, but he looks like a dried-out kitchen sponge crossed with a hunk of Swiss cheese. (Please don't tell Melody I said that.)

SpongeBob lives in a pineapple in a place called Bikini Bottom. His friends include a starfish, who also wears pants, and a squirrel named Sandy Cheeks (who wears a dive get-up that makes him look like an underwater astronaut).

I squinted at Melody. "Are you sure?" I asked. "Are you sure his name is not SpongeSquare BobPants?"

"Nooooo. (Giggle.) It's SpóngéBob SquarePants. (Giggle.)"

"Oh," I sighed, "I'm glad you told me. I thought it was SpongePants SquareBob."

"SpongeBob, SpongeBob."

"Does that mean his mother and father are Mr. and Mrs. SquarePants? Do they live in a pineapple, too?"

About that time Melody's mother made an appearance on the front porch steps where we had been staging our SpongeBob seminar.

"What are you two up to out here?" she asked.

"Nothing," said Melody.

"Nothing," I repeated.

My daughter looked suspicious. "There had better not be any ideas floating around out here about slipping the dog a spoonful of peanut butter," she warned.

The 'Roe Effect'

Pro-choice movement is 'killing' itself

Guest Column

GUEST COLUMN
CATHY
CLEAVER
RUSE, Esq.
GUEST COLUMNIST

We've all seen the fabulously popular and ubiquitous Frank Capra flick, "It's a Wonderful Life." We know the bittersweet post-war tale of how the lives of the people of Bedford Falls were touched by George Bailey, and how different things would have been if he had never existed.

It's a great lesson in the principle that absences have consequences.

Thirty-one years after Roe v. Wade, it's impossible to imagine what life would be like if those 40 million people were among us today. But odds are they would have been very much like us — going to school, getting jobs, raising families. And voting.

Their missing votes is what Wall Street Journal reporter James

Taranto calls the "Roe Effect."

The Roe Effect theorizes that "pro-choice" women are more likely to have abortions than pro-life women, and that children tend to espouse the views of their parents. Thus, there are fewer and fewer children growing up to become pro-choice adults — and this, according to the theory, has political ramifications.

Larry Eastland, discussing the Roe Effect recently in The American Spectator, said the children who were aborted instead of born in any given year could be considered "Missing Voters" 18 years later, the year they would have reached voting age. He calculated that abortions from 1973 to 1982 resulted in approximately 13 million Missing Voters in the 2000 election. Even taking into account the fact that not all possible voters become actual voters in any given election, the closeness of the last election can leave no doubt about the significance of millions of missing votes.

Now skip ahead four years. A whole new group of young people has reached voting age since the last election but missing among them are those who were aborted from 1982 to 1986. Thus, the total number of Missing Voters in the upcoming election will be 19 million.

"Like an avalanche that picks up

speed, mass and power as it thunders down a mountain," Eastland wrote, "the number of Missing Voters from abortion changes the landscape of politics."

But can we know how they would have voted? No, of course not. Still, as a general proposition, children tend to absorb the values of their parents, including their political views, and tend to develop the same lifestyle as their family. So if pro-lifers beget pro-lifers, then pro-choicers beget pro-choicers — unless they abort them instead.

A recent Wirthlin Worldwide survey found that, of the Americans who call themselves politically "conservative," 25 percent are having abortions. In contrast, 40 percent of self-described political "liberals" are having abortions. As Eastland wrote, "Liberals have been remarkably blind to the fact that every day the abortions they advocate dramatically decrease their power to do so."

It's the classic Pyrrhic victory.

Catholics have sometimes been accused of promoting large families as a means of gaining social or political control — a claim that is absurd on its face. But if the Roe Effect is true, then it's not a stretch to say that the "pro-choice" movement is quite literally killing itself.

Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq. is the director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Prisoner's faith, prayers touch lives of fellow inmates

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE — People yell and scream, music blares, but Oliver Wells isn't distracted.

Lying on his bunk, one of 46 in a long room in the North Carolina Department of Correction's minimum-security prison in Waynesville, Wells is praying. It's his solace during his 32-month prison sentence, his respite after another day working for the N.C. Department of Transportation.

He serves as a flagman, runs the wood chipper, dumps stone. Lately, he has been cutting trees and rebuilding roads washed away in the hurricanes. Recently Wells, who will be 74 on Oct. 15, put in an 86-hour week. He's paid 7.5 cents an hour.

Often his prayers are for others: an inmate's mother who had a stroke, a DOT employee paralyzed when a falling tree broke his back.

Another DOT employee asked Wells to pray for the man who was near death. Wells and Rev. Mr. Gerard LaPointe, a deacon at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, have both prayed; the man can now move his hands and is alert.

"We've had such good results that I can't say enough about prayer," Wells said. "I lay on my bunk and say what I want to the Lord and go through the rosary."

Other inmates are curious about those beads.

"They see me do the rosary at night and they come over and say, 'Can I ask you what that is?' so I show them," Wells said.

"I read the ('Liturgy of the Hours') every day," Wells also reads the Bible and uses a lector workbook, which has commentaries, to help him understand the Sunday readings.

"And all of this is because of Jerry," he said.

Rev. Mr. LaPointe gave Wells the books. He visits the prison to conduct



PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Ollie Wells (left) and Rev. Mr. Gerard LaPointe greet parishioners after Mass at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley.

a weekly Communion service.

"When he comes over on Monday night, it's very important to me," Wells said. "Consequently, the younger inmates see this."

His calm demeanor and deepening faith draw other inmates who ask to read passages from Wells' Bible, seek his advice on adjusting to life in prison and how to get work after they leave. He's talking to another inmate who has said he was raised Catholic but hadn't been to church in years; now, he too is planning to attend the Communion service.

"I don't go to other people, they come to me," Wells said.

He's honest with them, as well as during his talks with Rev. Mr. LaPointe.

"He hasn't tried to hide anything from me," Rev. Mr. LaPointe said. "I feel that what he's been doing to help

these other inmates, he's a guardian angel for (them). He gives them of his knowledge what will help them."

Part of his Catholic upbringing, he said, was "that you had to get up and do," but also included devotions: "Since I was a little kid, I've loved the Stations of the Cross, the ultimate sacrifice for people you never knew."

Football scholarships financed Wells bachelor's degree. Later, he earned a master's in cost accounting at McGill University in Montreal. He and wife, Ingeborg, have four grown children, seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild, and they

have stood by him.

In fact, he said, the hardest thing is being separated from them. He calls Ingeborg weekly: "She's my strength, my backbone."

He and his wife, who is of a different faith, raised their children Catholic, and she continues to attend Mass frequently. Wells, however, didn't always make time for church; he was too busy with his contracting and manufacturing businesses.

Prison has changed that when he was incarcerated for what he described as a nonviolent crime involving money but not drugs.

Wells began attending the Communion service in the prison. He and Rev. Mr. LaPointe started talking.

"It's very comfortable," Wells said. "I've said to Jerry, 'Religion isn't preaching.' God directs you to things. I believe in my heart that I'm here for a reason other than just the law of North Carolina."

One reason, he thinks, is increased tolerance.

"I've learned to accept a lot of people at face value," he said. "It doesn't cost you anything to sit and listen."

It's one of the things Rev. Mr. LaPointe has taught him.

"To me," Wells said, "preaching is 'I'm going to prove a point to you and the stronger I can yell, the stronger the point.' Jerry never preaches; he listens. To him, the homily is not preaching but explanation."

Wells has earned the prison's Level 2 status, which allows him six-hour-a-week sponsored passes. Rev. Mr. LaPointe takes him to Mass at St. Margaret of Scotland Church.

Although he misses the "mystery" of the Latin Mass, he likes participating. He doesn't think he'll be spending as much time working once he's out of prison.

"There's a lot of things that I can slow down and do, and I don't have to get away from my religion," he said. "I thought that I had to be in the plant 99 percent of the time. Now I know I don't have to."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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Welcome the
Stranger

Parishes welcome
Hispanics with ministries,
bilingual celebrations

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VOLUME 14 NO 3

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Stem cell experts, activists exhort Catholics to understand issues

'COST TOO HIGH' FOR
EMBRYONIC STEM-CELL
RESEARCH, SENATE
PANEL TOLD

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON —

With the rapid advances in medicine, science and technology, beginning-of-life issues that seemed a remote possibility in 2000 have emerged as hot political topics in 2004.

At the forefront are human cloning and stem-cell research using human embryos. Human cloning, at least of em-

See STEM CELLS, page 8

CATHOLIC FIRST,
HISPANIC SECOND

Hispanic ministry coordinators help immigrants feel at home in N.C.

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "They are all Mexicans." "They are here to take our jobs, make some money, then go back to Mexico." "They abuse our health care system." "They don't want to bother to learn to speak English."

These are a few of the misconceptions diocesan Hispanic Ministry coordinators are working to correct.

Following a day-long

See HISPANICS, page 6

SEWING ANGELS

Stitching the fabric of compassion

*Tote bags touch
lives of many*

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

*Editor's note: This story
contains descriptions of domes-
tic violence.*

MAGGIE VALLEY —

Her abusive husband could take everything she had, she said, everything — but her tote bag.

She received the bag when she fled empty-handed to the REACH shelter. If she could return to her house, accompanied by a police officer and while her husband wasn't there, the bag would hold whatever necessities she could quickly gather.

The Sewing Angels of St. Margaret of Scotland Church make the bags.

"Women cry when they get them," said Rita Noland, services coordinator for

See SEWING, page 5



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Esther Metz sews tote bags in St. Margaret of Scotland Church's parish hall. The Sewing Angels ministry has sewed and donated 120 tote bags to a shelter for victims of domestic abuse in Haywood County.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A displaced woman walks through Dirail camp, which houses tens of thousands of displaced Sudanese in the Darfur region of Sudan, Sept. 21.

HOME SWEET HOME?

Refugee camps becoming permanent homes, Vatican official says

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY —

Refugee camps are increasingly becoming permanent homes for people fleeing war, extreme poverty or persecution, and wealthier nations must make a greater commitment to helping refugees re-

turn to their own countries, a Vatican official said.

Some seven out of 12 million refugees worldwide have been kept from their homes for more than 10 years, a situation that leaves "masses of people without hope" and spawns "generations of children be-

See CAMPS, page 12

Culture Watch

Pope reviews 20th century in
new book

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Perspectives

Seeing God's signs;
classifying relics

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Serving up faith

Catholic churches supply
food for fund-raiser

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAITH IN ACTION



CNS PHOTO BY JOE BOLLIG, THE LEAVEN

Benedictine Sister Elaine Fisher works on renovating the Dooley Center, a retirement facility in Atchison, Kan. The 38-year-old nun is director of maintenance at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison. Sister Elaine says she can do almost any job the community may need done, but she admits electrical work is not really her forte.

Benedictine nun takes her order's 'prayer and work' motto to heart

ATCHISON, Kan. (CNS) — Benedictine Sister Elaine Fischer knows full well how to blend work with prayer.

The 38-year-old, who is the director of maintenance at Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, describes her job as a ministry and says it is "a real privilege for me to be in charge of the stewardship of these buildings."

She has had a hand in "keeping the place up" ever since she joined the community 17 years ago. And while lay people might think it unusual to see a sister building cabinets, gluing PCV pipe together or smashing gypsum board with a hammer, it makes perfect sense to her based on the Benedictine motto "ora et labora" ("prayer and work").

"What Sister Elaine does is very close to St. Benedict's vision of what monastics do," said Benedictine Sister Irene Nowell, director of ongoing formation at the monastery.

"She works in caring for the land and the other material things we have in the buildings," said Sister Irene. "She also has the other side, in regard to her prayer life and participation as one of six sisters on the prioress's advisory council."

Sister Elaine agrees. "The 'Rule of

Benedict' talks about manual labor and how important it really is, as well as reading and praying and your community life," she said.

Manual labor comes naturally to the nun. Growing up on a family farm, she learned to operate and maintain all kinds of farm machinery at an early age.

That experience made her more than capable of tackling almost any task.

In fact, when Sister Elaine first started working in maintenance, she also worked part time as a firefighter and an emergency medical technician. But she eventually stopped that work because she felt that it interfered too much with her community and prayer life.

Now she is responsible for a 60-acre campus with 16 buildings and a cemetery. The buildings range in size from small sheds to the five-story administration building of the former Mount St. Scholastica College.

She prefers making furniture and carpentry work along with gardening, mowing and landscaping.

"But everything intrigues me," she said. "I'm kind of 'a jack of all trades' and not a master of any."

"I wish she was out for hire," said Gary Kearney, a local contractor, "because I'd hire her."

Nations ignoring nuclear disarmament treaty, says Vatican official

NEW YORK (CNS) — Failure by nuclear and non-nuclear states to adhere to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty increases the possibility that terrorists will acquire such weapons, said the Vatican representative to the United Nations.

The 1968 treaty is in a "fragile state" because the "original bargain" of "no proliferation in exchange for nuclear disarmament" is not being observed, said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's permanent observer at the United Nations in New York.

Instead, there has been an "ongoing struggle" between the non-nuclear countries to obtain weapons and the nuclear nations to further modernize their weapons, he said Oct. 7 at a meeting of the General Assembly's First Committee, a subcommittee that deals with disarmament and international security.

"Proliferation of these weapons greatly increases the likelihood of terrorist acquisition," he said.

An overall rise in global military spending also makes it easier for terrorists to get conventional weapons, he said.

Worldwide military spending this year is expected to top \$1 trillion and "will soon surpass even the Cold War peaks," he said.

Global military spending in 2003 was \$965 billion, a jump of 11 percent from 2002, said the archbishop.

Conventional weapons "are being produced and sold internationally, on black markets as well as by state sponsors," he said.

Tighter export controls and greater monitoring of weapons stockpiles are needed, he added.

"Increased reliance on guns — large and small — is leading the world away from, not toward, security," he said.

Disarmament efforts must include stopping the spread of conventional weapons in Africa and other regions facing conflict, he said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, will present *Parish Mission* Oct. 31-Nov. 4. The Oct. 31 session begins at 7 p.m. and weekday sessions meet 9:15-9:45 a.m., 1-1:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. For more info, contact the church office at (828) 693-6901 or the faith formation office at (828) 697-7420.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "Annulments" is the topic of the St. Matthew C.A.F.E. (Catholic Adult Faith Exploring) on Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 104 of the New Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Bob Bartoldus, marriage tribunal advocate for the Diocese of Charlotte, will present information on the annulment process. Coffee and light snacks are provided. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 543-7677.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover will teach a series of classes on the *History of the Catholic Church* beginning Oct. 22 at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. classes will meet Fridays

at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To register, call Sister Grover at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church is presenting the Fifth Annual Kennedy Lecture Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the church, 507 South Tryon St. Susan A. Ross, PhD, will present: "Women's Work as Unopened gift: Women and the Church in the 21st Century." The lecture will explore the work of women in the church as a gift that too often remains "unopened." Ross will share stories of women's work in church and in society and will offer theological reflections on what it might mean to open these gifts and share them with the church and the world. For details and reservations, call the church office at (704) 332-2901, ext. 12, or visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — Would you like to learn more about your Catholic faith, but are unable to attend a class every week? *Catholic Update* meets Mondays, 5-6:15 p.m., and Tuesdays, 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the New Life Center Room 102 of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a drop-in class that will cover a new topic of interest each week. Each participant will receive a Catholic Update from St. Anthony Messenger Press to keep. Pre-registration is not necessary — just drop in! Childcare is available at these sessions

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican to publish catechism on church social teachings Oct. 25

Compendium 'indispensible instrument,' says cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The long-awaited catechism on church social teachings will be published Oct. 25 by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The council said in a statement Oct. 8 that the "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" is divided into three parts that present the foundations, contents and pastoral applications of Catholic social teachings.

Pope John Paul II endorsed the idea of a catechism of social doctrine in 1999, and the Vatican hoped it might be ready during Holy Year 2000.

The preparation and review, which included consultation with experts and bishops' conferences, took

longer than anticipated.

The compendium will be unveiled at the start of this fall's plenary assembly of the pontifical council.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the council, called the compendium "an indispensable instrument for announcing and implementing the Gospel."

He said it would help Catholics make the necessary "moral and pastoral discernment of the complex events that characterize our times."

Part of the catechism is expected to deal with the theological and anthropological underpinnings of the church's social teaching, as well as a wide range of classical social doctrine themes, said Cardinal Martino.

by reservation by calling (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Service Elder Ministry and the Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging will sponsor a *Health and Safety Fair* Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Demonstrations and exhibitions geared toward seniors and caregivers include free osteoporosis, blood sugar and blood pressure and spinal analysis. Information will be presented on housing options, in-home health care, nutrition and scam prevention. For additional information, contact Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Sherill Beason at (704) 370-3228.

CHARLOTTE — All couples married 25 or 50 years this year will be honored at an *Anniversary Mass* Oct. 24 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Please call your church office if you wish to be included.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Adult Faith Formation presents the second of a series of *Issues Forums* Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Topics will include euthanasia, living wills, self-assisted suicide and the death penalty. Panelists include Dr. Terence McConnell, ethicist, UNC-Greensboro; Ed Meyer, attorney; and Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith for-

mation. Time for questions and refreshments will follow. For more information, contact Phil Koch at (336) 282-0255.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., will sponsor its fifth season of *Renew*, a six-week spiritual renewal program. Small Christian communities meet once a week, Oct. 17-Nov. 21, to share faith, find meaning, deepen relationships, pray, learn and support each other in the struggle to live faith in all aspects of life. For more information, call Michael Kauffman at (828) 835-3310 or email mkskauffman@webworkz.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican says it favors reforms of U.N. Security Council

NEW YORK (CNS) — The U.N. Security Council should be reformed so that it better represents the world's population, geopolitical regions, economic groups and civilizations, said the Vatican representative to the United Nations.

Such revisions would "improve the credibility and efficacy of the reformed Security Council," said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations.

Reforms must also improve the "actual capacity and political will to contribute substantially to reach the goals that constitute a priority for the overall majority of the member states," he said.

The archbishop spoke at an Oct. 4 session of the U.N. General Assembly that was held to discuss ways to revitalize and strengthen the United Nations.

The Security Council is the United Nations' most powerful body. It is the only body whose decisions are obligatory on member states and the only one authorized to enforce resolutions through military action.

The council is composed of five permanent members and 10 rotating members elected to two-year terms. The permanent members are the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France.

Archbishop Migliore stopped short of suggesting that the veto

power over decisions held by the five permanent members be ended. The veto, known as the rule of "great power unanimity," means that no substantive decision can be approved by the council if at least one of the permanent members votes against it.

"For practical reasons, not all the bodies of the United Nations can be arranged on the model of the General Assembly," said the archbishop.

In the General Assembly, each state has one vote and no state has a veto.

Regarding general U.N. reforms, Archbishop Migliore said that "the nations that have attained a superior degree of scientific, cultural and economic development have the responsibility to make a greater contribution to the common cause."

The United Nations "needs to become a more outward-looking organization capable of listening more carefully to the needs and demands of the global community," he said.

"Changing historical conditions" reinforce the need for an international body such as the United Nations, he said.

"The universal common good is confronted with problems of worldwide dimensions; problems, therefore, which can be solved only by an authority possessed with power, organization and means coextensive with these problems and whose sphere of activity is worldwide," he said.

Carrying democracy



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Afghan election workers carry ballot boxes to a counting center in Kabul Oct. 10. Afghans voted in the country's first direct presidential election, which will also be a major test of U.S.-led nation-building efforts under way since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- Oct. 16 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem
- Oct. 17 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, Boone
- Oct. 18-20
Provincial Assembly of Bishops and Priests
Charleston, South Carolina

- Oct. 21 — 2:30 p.m. Mass
Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors
St. Mark Church, Huntersville
- Oct. 22 — 7 p.m.
Aquinas/Luther Conference
Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory
- Oct. 23 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Local student walks halls of leadership in Washington

Youth leadership conference offers historic perspectives

GASTONIA — Lauren Caddick, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, joined 200 middle school students from throughout the United States at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., Oct. 9-14.

Themed "The Legacy of American Leadership," the conference introduced young people to the rich tradition of leadership throughout U.S. history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills.

Caddick, who attends Cramerton Middle School in Cramerton, participated in educational activities and presentations led by individuals in high-level positions as well as young people who exercise leadership skills within their communities. Students also visited historic national landmarks, including Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

"By participating in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference, students such as Lauren Caddick learn early that young people are not only welcome in Washington, D.C., but they

actually keep this city and our country running," said Mike Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, the nonprofit, non-partisan organization that sponsored the conference.

"One of the goals of the conference is to encourage students to build their own leadership skills through active involvement within their communities," said Lasday.

In addition to examining notable U.S. leaders and historic figures, Caddick studied the impact of leadership throughout critical periods of U.S. history, including the Civil War and Reconstruction, World War II, the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement. Upon completion of the conference, students took home a greater sense of understanding of the role of individuals in U.S. democracy, as well as the responsibilities of being a leader.

Caddick, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William Caddick in Gastonia, is also a Girl Scout and a member of her school's Junior Beta Club.

Chalking up fun



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Eleanora Azerbaeb, 22 months, daughter of Cindy and Russ Azerbaeb, helps Lia Beard of St. Barnabas Church in Arden draw chalk pictures on the walk in front of the Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville during the Fiesta Tamale Oct. 10. The event, attended by more than 100 people, raised more than \$600 for the office and introduced people to the facility. Eleanora's grandmother is Carol Meyerriecks, head of adoption services at the office.

THIS MONTH IN — 1993

On Oct. 17, 1993, the new parish activity center of St. Ann Church in Charlotte was dedicated by Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, the first pastor of the church. Then-pastor Msgr. Richard Allen oversaw the construction of the 27,000-square-foot facility, which includes a cafeteria and gymnasium used by St. Ann School, classroom and offices. In 2003, the building was renamed the Msgr. Allen Center in honor of the former pastor.

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"They're so touched that someone ... would care enough to do this."

Stitching the fabric of compassion

SEWING, from page 1

REACH (Resources, Education, Assistance, Counseling and Housing) of Haywood County, which assists victims of domestic violence. "They're so touched that someone who didn't even know they would care enough to do this."

"I decided to start making tote bags last fall after I had been to a St. Margaret Women's Guild meeting and Nancy Porter (of the guild) said REACH needed suitcases for the people entering the shelter," said Clare Danielewski, a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland Church.

"When a woman comes to the shelter, she usually just leaves home and has nothing," said Danielewski. "They may give her a pillowslip or trash bag to keep her belongings in."

Danielewski invited other women in the parish to help her make tote bags. From July through October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month), the Sewing Angels of St. Margaret of Scotland Church have given REACH 120 tote bags.

"The bag itself has taken many forms," said Danielewski, who based the design on a bag she bought years ago. "It was a growing process. First it was larger, then it became smaller, then it had one (exterior) pocket, then I came up with the idea of making two pockets, one for a cell phone, baby bottle or water bottle, and one for the important papers



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Esther Rapp (left) and Clare Danielewski of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley lay out a tote bag. The Sewing Angels ministry has sewed and donated 120 tote bags to a shelter for victims of domestic abuse in Haywood County.

a woman uses when she's in the shelter."

An adult's bag is 19 inches square; pull up the lining and the bag doubles in size. Children's bags are 14 inches square. Most of the adult bags feature feminine-patterned fabric, but some have masculine designs. Although the majority of abuse victims are women, men can also be victims.

Close to home

In North Carolina in 2003, 71 people (55 women, 13 men and three children) died from domestic violence: killed by acid, shot, stabbed, strangled, drowned, beaten with fists or a pipe. A father killed his son as the son tried to protect his mother.

From July 2003 through June 2004, REACH of Haywood County dealt with 919 domestic violence and

506 sexual assault cases.

Whether or not the victims actually die, domestic violence is about the abuser controlling the abused. One husband repeatedly followed his wife to the bathroom and dictated how many sheets of toilet paper she could use. Another allowed his wife 28 minutes to go to the grocery store and painted her automobile headlights black so she couldn't drive at night.

"Their self-esteem is so low," Noland said. "When they come to us, they're at such a low point — they've been called names, hit, sexually abused — they don't feel they deserve anything. Abusers are con artists. They will use anything to get that person under their thumb."

The tote bag is often the only new thing the victim has.

Fabric stores and individuals donate much of the fabric for the tote bags, often sturdy tapestry in bright colors, and the Sewing Angels sell some bags to raise money for materials. However, Danielewski is adamant that all proceeds go back into the project.

The Sewing Angels meet in the parish hall on Wednesday mornings to work on the bags. The Angels complete some bags at home.

"Once you get the hang of it, it takes two to three hours (to make a bag)," said

Barbara Williams. "I enjoy sewing and when I saw it in the (church) bulletin, I thought that was something I'd be interested in. It seemed like a worthwhile cause. I enjoy the camaraderie of the ladies. (The sewing) just kind of sucks you in."

But the Sewing Angels' gifts of love aren't limited to Haywood County.

Angels abroad

Now the ministry has embraced Grace Uwimfura, originally from Rwanda and now living in Atlanta.

Speaking recently during the weekend Masses at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Uwimfura asked for help for the Giving Back Foundation, which she founded to help African war widows and orphans.

Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, met Uwimfura 10 years ago when he visited Notre Dame Sister Jane McAndrews, who was working in a Kenyan refugee camp.

Marauders had murdered Uwimfura's husband and their teen-age daughter in their home. Six months pregnant, Uwimfura and her three children fled to a camp, where they spent two years, often suffering from malnutrition.

With help from Sister McAndrews, Uwimfura and her children arrived in Atlanta. While in the camp, she had met Callixte, whose wife and six children had been murdered as he was forced to watch. They married in 1998.

Her life is good now, but she can never forget the refugee camp. "Domestic violence is high, women are often raped and many have HIV; there are no shelters, and people lack clothing and food," she said.

"When I left the refugee camp, women said, 'Remember us,'" Uwimfura said. "Now I have to give back. Now I can be the voice of the voiceless."

Inspired by Sister McAndrews, Uwimfura started the Giving Back Foundation.

"If you want to live, you can do it," Uwimfura said. "People who helped me were not Rwandese or African. Sister Jane was not African. She was a missionary with a heart, doing good things to give us hope. I watched what she did. I made this foundation to honor her name."

When Uwimfura visited the St. Margaret Women's Guild, Danielewski gave her a tote bag. Later, Uwimfura contacted Danielewski, asking to learn how to make the bags to give to refugees.

Uwimfura and Marta Yakoge are teaching others in the foundation to make the bags. When she visits the camps in November to assess the refugees' needs, Uwimfura will give them the bags as "an initial gift of hope."

She will also teach women not in the camps to make the bags so they can earn a living.

Uwimfura is still awed by the way St. Margaret of Scotland parishioners reached out to her and the help she received from the Sewing Angels.

"It shows how it doesn't matter about the color or the tribe or anything," Uwimfura said. "It shows how everyone can work together, people giving their talents. The women's guild here showed me the unity and love, so I'm living with that sign. This is the message I want to take back home, how people can love one another."

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'VIVA MEXICO'

Celebration highlights Mexican independence

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ANDREWS — A nighttime call to arms, ordinary people gathered to shake off control of another nation.

Only this wasn't Paul Revere riding through sleeping Massachusetts villages on April 18, 1775, shouting that the British were coming.

This was Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, who, shortly before dawn on Sept. 16, 1810, roused Mexican Indians and mestizos — people of mixed European and American Indian ancestry — in Dolores in the state of Guanajuato to strike for Mexican independence from Spain.

Mexico gained its independence in 1821. Today the priest is known as Father Hidalgo and the father of Mexico's independence.

Around 100 people, mostly Hispanic, many of them parishioners at Holy Redeemer Church, gathered the evening of Oct. 1 in the Andrews Recreation Center for a Mexican Independence Day celebration. Hurricanes hitting western North Carolina had prevented them from celebrating on the actual September date.

"So many Americans think Cinco de Mayo is Independence Day, but that celebrates Mexico defeating France," said Jose Martinez, a Holy Redeemer parishioner originally from Guanajuato.

On Cinco de Mayo (May 5) in 1862, Mexico defeated France in the Battle of Puebla.

"Guanajuato is where independence started," Martinez said. "On (the 16th) a priest was the one who convoked everybody to get up and get arms. He rang the bells and everybody came to the church. They were the poor; the rich didn't care."

This night the recreation center pulsed with music to set the blood pumping and feet dancing. Green, white and red paper banners declaring "Viva Mexico" (Father Hidalgo's cry to the peasants) were strung around the balloon-decorated hall.

Beneath a Mexican flag above the stage, DJs provided the music against a background of flashing colored lights. Adults danced; kids raced around the room chasing balloons.

Besides celebrating Mexican independence, the Hispanic community's goals were to have fun and, through ticket and

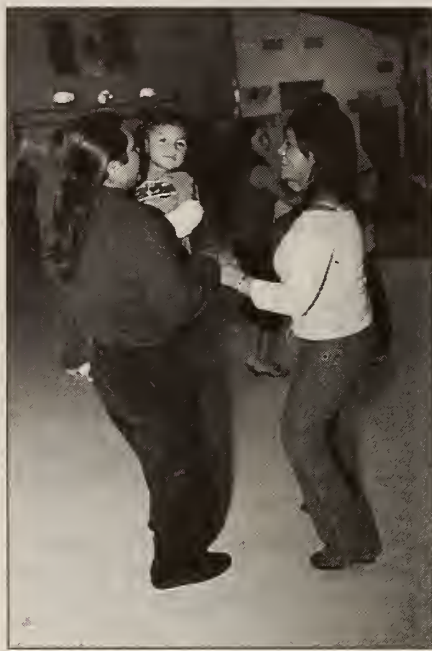


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Rafael and Roseo Martinez dance with Rafael Jr., 2, during a Mexican Independence Day celebration in Andrews Oct. 1.

food sales, raise money for the December celebration the community is planning in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"The principal meaning is to show people we can have fun without alcohol or drugs, that it's more family oriented," Martinez said.

The communitywide party turned out well.

"For the first one, I'm happy," said Father Michael Kottar, administrator of Holy Redeemer Church. "We have people here from Murphy and Hayesville (as well as Andrews)."

Dr. Darius Chrostowski, his wife, Beata, and their children, Emily and Eric, were among the non-Hispanic attendees. Holy Redeemer parishioners, they emigrated from Poland eight years ago and moved to Andrews from Chicago three years ago.

"It was a nice party, something different," Beata said. "A few years ago, there were not so many immigrants coming (here), but everywhere things are changing."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Hispanic ministry coordinators help welcome immigrants

HISPANICS, from page 1

meeting of the eight coordinators Oct. 6, four of the coordinators and Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry discussed the challenges Hispanics face as newcomers to a sometimes-inhospitable land, and the accomplishments they have made.

The most important idea the coordinators wanted to convey was that Hispanics are "Catholic first, Hispanic second," said Eduardo Bernal, coordinator for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

Pedro Trinidad, coordinator for the Winston-Salem Vicariate, said it is a common misconception that all Hispanic immigrants are Mexican.

"We come from El Salvador, Colombia, Cuba," he said. "It is important to understand that we come from many places."

With the many countries that contribute to the immigrant Hispanic population, many Spanish dialects, cultures and celebrations come with them.

"It is a challenge to integrate cultures while keeping the faith we have as Catholics," said Eneidino Aquino, coordinator for the Greensboro Vicariate.

Churches throughout the diocese are making efforts to reach out to Hispanics. For the past six years, an annual retreat has taken place in the Asheville Vicariate aimed at strengthening faith programs and training laity. Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro offers a "Health and Hispanic Fair" that includes traditional music and dancing along with free health screenings.

"Catholics must stand up in support of Hispanics," said Bernal. "Talk to your Hispanic neighbors and find out about them. Invite them to church — Protestants do this."

"We must all go beyond the limitations of skin color and language barriers," he said. "Hispanics want to be invited into the community by Anglos."

Aquino said Anglos need to realize Hispanic immigrants are not coming to the United States to visit.

"They are here to stay," he said. "Make them feel at home."

In the coming years, Hispanics will make up the majority of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte. There are already approximately 140,000 Hispanics living here. Eventually, Hispanics could make up as much as 85 percent of the Catholic population in western North Carolina, Bernal said.

"Soon, Hispanics will work in every department of the Pastoral Center, every parish will have a bilingual secretary," said Bernal. "We will be in every aspect of American society."

By no means should this be taken as a liability, said Sister Inkrott. "But rather it is a blessing, as the U.S. bishops stated in 'The Hispanic Presence.'"

Issued in 1983, "The Hispanic Presence, Challenge and Commitment, A Pastoral Letter on Hispanic Ministry" states, "At this moment of grace we recognize the Hispanic community among us as a blessing from God. We call upon all persons of good faith to share our vision of the special gifts which Hispanics bring to the Body of Christ, his pilgrim Church on earth."

"There follows a wonderful listing of the values the Hispanics exemplify that are central to the service of church and society," said Sister Inkrott, "such as respect for the dignity of each person, love for family life, sense of community, appreciation of the gift of life, devotion to Mary."

"I see Hispanics as being a 'wedge' to open up the existing cultures and allow new cultures in," said Sister Inkrott.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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HISPANIC MINISTRY

'BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN FAITH'

Parishes work to welcome Hispanics into fold

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR
AND CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — As the Hispanic population continues to grow in the Diocese of Charlotte, many parishes are working to meet the demands of that growth.

In addition to Spanish-language Masses, parishes across the diocese have instituted Hispanic ministry and Hispanic faith formation programs.

"I saw the need for such a ministry as soon as I arrived in Charlotte in July of last year," said Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church. "We had our first Spanish-language Mass last December and we now have a very steady ministry."

St. Vincent de Paul Church became the 50th of 93 parishes and missions within the diocese to have an active Hispanic ministry. The need was great, according to Father Lawlor, especially with nearby Protestant churches offering both religious and social services in Spanish.

Approximately 6,700 Hispanics live within the parish boundaries, according to the diocesan Office of Planning, and 75 percent of them identify themselves as Catholics.

"It follows then that approximately 5,000 Hispanic Catholics are currently living within our parish," said Father Lawlor.

More than 300 Hispanics regularly attend the Spanish-language Mass. The

addition of the Mass was quite a change for some of the non-Hispanic members of the 40-year-old parish, said Father Lawlor.

"I have had to educate some on matters such as parish boundaries and the makeup of the universal church," said Father Lawlor. "As pastor, I am responsible for the pastoral care of all the Catholics who live within our parish. Our membership in the church is by virtue of baptism and not dependent on your financial status or even legal status."

Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez recently transferred from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe to assist with the new ministry.

"A couple of (non-Hispanic) parishioners have expressed their willingness to help out in such ways as teaching English," said Father Lawlor. "Others have attended the Mass to learn the Spanish language and have expressed that they enjoyed the liturgy."

It was standing room only for the Sept. 12 Spanish-language Mass at which Father Lawlor dedicated a statue of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, who was declared the patroness of Cuba by Pope Benedict XV in 1916.

"We now have a choir and have begun preparation for first penance and first Eucharist," said Father Lawlor.

At the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, sacramental preparation is offered in both English and Spanish.

"We pray in Spanish and in English when we meet together," said



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor, and Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez, deacon, dedicate a statue of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre during the Spanish-language Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Sept. 12.

Elizabeth Girton, director of faith formation at the basilica.

A Hispanic catechist works with parents who often speak little or no English and teaches them ways to prepare their children to receive the sacraments. Parents and children have books with English on one page and similar text in Spanish on the opposite page.

The catechists work cover the same material with both the English- and Spanish-speaking parents.

"All are learning the same thing at the same time," said Girton. "It works well. We've been doing it this way for five years."

Father C. Morris Boyd, parochial vicar, said the parish faith formation helps educate young people in two cultures. He said he hopes to help "integrate this (Hispanic) community into the whole parish and still keep the customs that also enrich ours."

A large number of parishioners attend the Spanish-language Mass on

Sunday evenings. Father Boyd hears confessions in Spanish before the Mass.

Three Sundays a month, Father Boyd celebrates Mass in Spanish at the basilica and once a month at Immaculate Conception Church in Canton. Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the basilica, celebrates a monthly Spanish-language Mass.

A Hispanic youth group also meets on Sundays, a leadership group meets with adults and two small Christian community prayer and Scripture groups meet weekly in their homes. More groups are starting.

Father Boyd describes the Hispanic parishioners as dedicated Catholics.

"They live and breathe their faith," he said.

Opening the church doors to Hispanics is good for any parish, said Father Lawlor.

"Having another culture present reminds us that we are brothers and sisters in the one faith," he said.



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Bishop celebrates bilingual confirmation Mass at basilica

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — In his first visit as bishop to the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, Bishop Peter J. Jugis confirmed five youths at a bilingual Mass Sept. 25.

Typical of the basilica's diverse parish, three of the youths speak English as a second language. Although they hail from different ethnic backgrounds — including Hispanic, Vietnamese and Lithuanian — the youths prepared for their confirmation in their shared language of English.

The confirmation Mass, concelebrated by Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the basilica, was celebrated in both English and Spanish, with the five candidates for confirma-

tion assisting.

Candidates Alicia Funderbunk, Jaime Gutierrez, Beverly Vu, Rebecca Sadelson and Gintaras Krulikas participated throughout the Mass as lectors.

During his homily, Bishop Jugis told the candidates that the "fullness of the Holy Spirit" would be with them to help guide them toward salvation.

"Life is not easy, especially if we want to be faithful to Christ and to the teachings he left us," said the bishop. "We need the Holy Spirit to stay on the path that will make us stay faithful. Happiness lies in living in communion with God and living life according to God's plan, his commandments."

The Holy Spirit "will be there to guide you, to show you the way," he said.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Drenched in conviction



COURTESY PHOTO BY TJ STOCKER III

Charlie and Dot Martin, parishioners of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, endure unsavory weather during the parish Life Chain Oct. 3. In addition to braving a thunderstorm, parishioners had to fabricate new signs when the pre-printed ones could not be located.

On angels' wings



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

An empty swing, forever beyond reach, hovers above a meditation garden dedicated "In Memory of the Innocents." The plaque in the garden reads, "Never a chance to play on swings, now they play on angels' wings." The garden with its angel, stepping stones in memory of loved ones and white crosses, is at St. Barnabas Church in Arden. Originally there were 100 crosses, each representing 44 babies aborted every day; a few crosses have disappeared but 85 remain.

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Catholics exhorted to un

STEM CELLS, from page 1

bryos, is now a laboratory reality.

As such, Catholic leaders and theologians believe people in the pews really need to understand the issue of stem-cell research, especially in light of the upcoming presidential election.

Stem-cell expert Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk said the debate on such research and the closely related issue of cloning is not just national in scope but international as the United Nations again faces the question of whether to ban all types of human cloning.

"To have an informed debate," said Father Pacholczyk, "people need to be aware of what the real parameters of the discussion are: What is a human embryo? What is cloning? What are stem cells, and from where do you get them? And what's the price that's going to be paid if we take stem cells from certain sources like living, growing human embryos?"

Father Pacholczyk, who holds a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University and has completed advanced studies in Rome in theology and bioethics, is director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. He has served as a national spokesman on stem-cell research and presented congressional testimony.

Stem cells are basic cells capable of transforming themselves into the specialized cells present in specific body organs. Currently, embryonic stem-cell re-

search involves embryos created in vitro by uniting a sperm and an egg in a laboratory.

Supporters of embryonic research say stem cells from embryos can be transformed into more types of specialized cells than adult stem cells can.

Father Pacholczyk said embryonic stem-cell research shows that the greatest promise for curing disease "is vastly over-sold."

Myths and misconceptions

Father Pacholczyk said the Catholic Church supports three of four types of stem-cell research, opposing only the use of embryonic stem cells.

Noting the Catholic Church runs the biggest network of hospitals in the world, the priest said the church "vigorously supports healing ... but always in a manner that respects true human dignity, without violating that dignity in order to achieve a cure."

"And embryonic stem-cell research represents a step where you violate human dignity in order to get what you want in the end — a possible cure. And that decision to violate the embryo is intrinsically objectionable, always," he added.

Father Pacholczyk charged the secular media with doing a poor job of reporting clearly the facts on these issues. He singled out two of his "10 great myths" on stem cell research as "really critical that people understand."

The first myth, he said, is that embryonic stem-cell research shows the greatest



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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

stand stem-cell issues

promise. In reality, "the stress on the destruction of embryos as a way to bring about medical cures and miracles is vastly oversold. ... The true cures are coming from adult and umbilical cord stem cells. And people need to realize that."

Adult stem cells, he said, have existed and been in use for years. "So literally tens of thousands of people have already been cured of various ailments and treated for various disorders with adult stem cells," he said.

"And if you asked the question, 'How many people have been cured of any disease using stem cells from embryos?', the answer is exactly zero," said Father Pacholczyk. "Nobody has ever been cured of any disease yet."

He said it was pointless to wait "10 years or 20 years and invest hundreds of millions of dollars in a project that may fizzle. We have cures that work today."

Many supporters of embryonic research favor legalizing the cloning of human embryos solely for research purposes to provide more cells for investigation. This type of cloning is often called "therapeutic cloning."

Another key myth Father Pacholczyk said the public is being sold is the claim that therapeutic cloning and reproductive cloning are fundamentally different from one another.

"That is a smoke screen," the priest said. "Those two types of cloning do not differ from each other in the way that you make the cloned embryo. They're exactly the same."

"The creation of cloned embryos, either to make a baby or to harvest cells, occurs by the same series of technical steps," he said. "The only difference is what will be done with the cloned human embryo that is produced: Will it be given the protection of a woman's womb in order to be born, or will it be destroyed for its stem cells?"

Opposing sides

The June 5 death of former President Ronald Reagan, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, revived the political debate over federal funding of human embryonic stem-cell research, which de facto destroys the embryos.

The debate surfaced even as many scientists favoring such research said stem cells hold out little hope for Alzheimer's patients, but offer promise in the fight against other major illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

When it comes to stem-cell research, Republican President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry are on opposite sides of the debate.

Kerry has vowed to lift restrictions on

stem-cell research instituted by Bush on Aug. 9, 2001. Bush restricted the use of federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research to cell lines that existed at that time.

"At this very moment, some of the most pioneering cures and treatments are right at our fingertips, but because of the stem-cell ban, they remain beyond our reach," Kerry said in an Aug. 7 radio address. "That is not the way we do things in America. Here in America, we don't sacrifice science for ideology."

In response, Bush said his administration was the first to actually fund stem-cell research, with his 2003 budget including \$24.8 million for research on the existing embryonic stem-cell lines and \$190 million in funding for adult stem cells.

"The principle that human embryos merit respect as a form of human life — and that the federal government should not encourage their destruction — has been accepted on a bipartisan basis for a number of years," says the Bush campaign Web site. "Every year since 1996, Congress has adopted legislative language stating that federal funds may not be used in research involving the destruction of human embryos."

Regarding cloning, Bush has said he would sign legislation banning all human cloning. A total ban bill has passed the House of Representatives and a similar bill is in the Senate. Kerry supports a rival Senate bill that would ban cloning for human reproduction but would allow the cloning of human embryos for medical research.

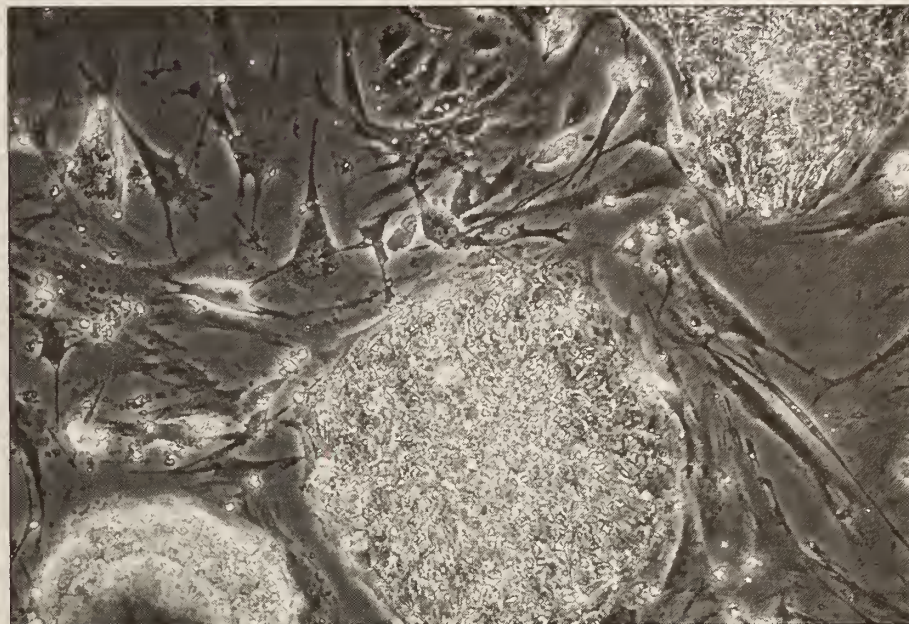
"Government has no business forcing taxpayers to support research that relies on the direct destruction of any human life," said Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Cardinal Keeler said that there is no need to experiment with embryonic stem cells because knowledge of stem cells has advanced through the use of morally acceptable adult stem cells, animal stem cells and embryonic stem cells eligible for funding under current Bush administration policy.

The initial promise of embryonic stem cells "was exaggerated," Cardinal Keeler said in a July 7 letter to the appropriations committees in the Senate and House of Representatives. The cardinal urged federal lawmakers to oppose efforts to include such federal funding in the appropriations bill for the Labor Department and the Health and Human Services Department.

Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, agrees.

In testimony before a Senate subcommittee Sept. 29, Doerflinger said



CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A microscopic view shows a colony of undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells being studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The U.S. bishops oppose human embryonic stem-cell research because it requires the destruction of embryos.

"ethical errors" and "dwindling hopes of medical benefit" mitigate against public funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

"Congress should take stock now and realize that the promise of this approach is too speculative, and the cost too high," said Doerflinger before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation's subcommittee on science, technology and space. He was one of five witnesses at the subcommittee's hearing on "Embryonic Stem-Cell Research: Exploring the Controversy."

"That cost includes the early human lives destroyed now and in the future, the required exploitation of women for their eggs and perhaps for their wombs, and the diversion of finite public resources away from research avenues that offer real reasons for hope for patients with terrible diseases," he added. "Let's agree to support avenues to medical progress that we can all live with."

Both Doerflinger and Cardinal Keeler have rejected the argument that human embryos that otherwise would be discarded can be used for experiments.

"The mere fact that some parents discard 'excess' embryos creates no argument that the federal government should intervene to assist in their destruction — any more than the fact that many abortions are performed in the U.S. creates an argument that Congress must use its funding power to promote such killing," said Doerflinger.

"The claim that humans who may soon die automatically become fodder for lethal experiments also has ominous implications for condemned prisoners and terminally ill patients," said Cardinal Keeler.

On the same day as the cardinal's July 7 letter, the results of a Le Moyne College/Zogby International polling project on contemporary Catholic trends were released, showing 73 percent of Catholics surveyed support adult stem-cell research and 63 percent feel that use of embryonic stem cells is morally wrong.

Church perspective

While the bishops do not endorse candidates, they do take stands on issues.

In their 2003 voter guideline document, "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility," the bishops based their opposition to human

embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning on the principle that human life begins at conception.

"The destruction of human embryos as objects of research is wrong. This wrong is compounded when human life is created by cloning or other means only to be destroyed," said the bishops' document.

"We call on government and medical researchers to base their decisions regarding biotechnology and human experimentation on respect for the inherent dignity and inviolability of human life from its very beginning, regardless of the circumstances of its origins," it says.

Regarding human cloning, separate statements by church officials have supported the total ban contained in a bill that passed the House in 2003 and in a Senate bill. Bush supports both bills.

Kerry supports a rival Senate bill that would ban cloning for human reproduction but allow it for research purposes, said a spokesman in Kerry's Senate office.

Catholic bioethicists have noted that the church's opposition to using embryonic stem cells is not a hindrance to research. They cite research with adult stem cells as more promising, since embryonic stem cells are said to be more unstable.

"Because scientists, and the for-profit companies that increasingly support and make use of their research, are always tempted to treat helpless members of the human family as mere means to their ends, the rest of society — including government — must supply the urgently needed barrier against unethical exploitation of human beings," said Doerflinger.

As with abortion and euthanasia, "the destruction of human embryos for stem-cell research is intrinsically evil and can never be justified because it directly targets and destroys innocent human life," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis. "There is a lot of work the church must do on many fronts."

Editor Kevin E. Murray and CNS writers Nancy Frazier O'Brien and Jean M. Schildz contributed to this story.

Want More Info?

More of the information needed to understand the stem-cell issue is available in question-and-answer form: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/stemcell/answers08052004.htm>

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'Memory and Identity': In new book, pope looks back at 20th century

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — This month, Pope John Paul II's latest book has been unveiled — a 200-page reflection on the ideological struggles of the 20th century and their significance to all believers.

Due out in Italy in early 2005, "Memory and Identity: Conversations Between Millenniums" will be his third book in the space of two years.

Like some of the pope's previous books, this one was more than a decade in gestation. In recent months, he has returned to these unfinished projects with new focus, dictating changes and corrections to a Polish assistant.

Vatican officials insist that despite the pope's physical decline — the result of a nervous system disorder believed to be Parkinson's disease — he still has considerable creative energy. As evidence, they point to the pope's book of poems written in the summer of 2002, at a time when much of the world thought that he and his pontificate were running out of steam.

The Italian publisher, Rizzoli, describes it as "a historical and philosophical reflection on the use of freedom and its limits, on the concepts of homeland and nation, and on the Christian roots of Europe."

The idea for the book jelled in 1993, when the late Father Jozef Tischner, a fellow Pole and a philosopher in the pope's former Archdiocese of Krakow, proposed a series of conversations on the tumultuous events of the closing century — including the rise and fall of Nazism, fascism and European communism.

The pope was happy to oblige, and the two were joined by another philosopher friend, Krzysztof Michalski. Their many hours of conversation were tape-recorded; afterward, the transcripts sat in a drawer. Apparently, the pope felt it was better to let the century end before drawing definitive judgments.

Ten years later, the pontiff picked up the transcripts and set to work editing and correcting. According to excerpts

released by Rizzoli, the pope sees the 20th century as a stage where good and evil did sharp battle.

The pope calls Nazism a form of "bestiality" whose true dimensions became known only after World War II.

"The full extent of the evil that was raging through Europe was not seen by everyone, not even by those of us who were living at the epicenter," he said.

"For a long time, the West did not want to believe in the extermination of the Jews. ... Not even in Poland did we know all that the Nazis had done," he said.

Here and in other places the pope tries to reconcile this obvious and horrendous evil with God's plan for humanity.

"Later, when the war was over, I thought to myself: The Lord God allowed Nazism 12 years of existence, and after 12 years the system collapsed. Evidently this was the limit imposed by divine providence upon that sort of folly," he said.

If communism had a longer run, there was meaning in that, too, he said.

"To me it was quite clear that communism would last much longer than Nazism had done. For how long? It was hard to predict. There was a sense that this evil was in some way necessary for the world and for mankind," he said.

Then he quotes from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a German poet and dramatist, and St. Paul, to make the point that sometimes evil is useful because it creates opportunities for good.

In his book, the pope is clearly reaching beyond the borders of his own church toward a wider audience. Rizzoli will try to make sure that can happen, as it seeks partner publishers in various languages around the world.

The pope already has tasted publishing success on a global scale with some earlier works. The autobiographical "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" has worldwide sales of more than 20 million since 1993, and the poetry volume, "Roman Triptych," has been translated into 20 languages since its release last year.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 24, 2004

Oct. 24, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
Psalm 34:2-3, 17-19, 23
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
- 3) Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Common need for healing, forgiveness

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the high political season now upon us, campaign charges and counter-charges explode around us like broadcast pipe bombs. It is easy to become indignant about one outrageous claim or another.

"How can they say that with a straight face?" we ask like-minded friends incredulously, angrily. "How can they twist the facts so deliberately? Resort to scare tactics so callously? Appeal to the baser instincts of the electorate so shamelessly?" we wonder.

When we experience divisive and bitter tactics, it is easy to feel a fierce sense of righteous anger. While most people don't deliberately court such feelings, it is difficult to deny their allure when circumstances place them in our path.

Deeply rooted in wounded human

nature, there seems to be an instinct to find in the egregious flaws of others a way to minimize what we pretend are much less serious failings in ourselves. It is a delusion to which only a little reflection puts the lie, but it seems hard to resist.

Jesus knew well this primal strategy for distracting ourselves from our deep — and deeply disconcerting — need for mercy and conversion. To his first hearers, tax collectors were an obvious trigger for righteous indignation. They were despised as collaborators with the occupying Romans and betrayers of religious truth.

Contrasting them with the religiously correct Pharisees would incline listeners to anticipate the story's lesson: Admire the Pharisee, condemn the tax collector.

Jesus turns such self-serving logic on its ear. The public sinner at least has the grace to recognize his need before God; the publicly virtuous Pharisee is blind to the self-importance and spiritual pride which block the flow of God's grace.

As election day draws near and the opposing arguments grow more strident, may God's kindness reveal to us our common need for healing and forgiveness.

Question:

Reflecting on God's love for sinners, how can I find common ground with those whose politics I deplore?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17 - OCTOBER 23

Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2, Luke 18:1-8; Monday (St. Luke), 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; Tuesday (Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions), Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; Wednesday (St. Paul of the Cross), Ephesians 3:2-12, Luke 12:39-48; Thursday, Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; Friday, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; Saturday (St. John of Capistrano), Ephesians 4:7-16, Luke 13:1-9.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24 - OCTOBER 30

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14; Monday, Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; Tuesday, Ephesians 5:21-33, Luke 13:18-21; Wednesday, Ephesians 6:1-9, Luke 13:22-30; Thursday (Sts. Simon and Jude), Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; Friday, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; Saturday, Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

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Movie Capsule

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following is a capsule review of a movie recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

"Friday Night Lights"

Hard-hitting drama about a season in the life of a small-town high school football team as it struggles to make it to the Texas state championship. Based on a nonfiction best seller, the film is an engrossing, at times unsettling, portrait of the lives and

fragile dreams of young athletes that exposes the unhealthy environment where teen-agers are asked to shoulder the expectations of an entire community.

Football violence; some underage drinking; two sexual situations, one with partial nudity; an abusive father-son relationship and some crude language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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
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American Jewish Committee honors Dominican nun

Sister Thering honored for lifelong commitments

NEW YORK (CNS) — The American Jewish Committee awarded Dominican Sister Rose Thering its Jan Karski Moral Courage Award for her lifelong commitment to Christian-Jewish relations, her support for Israel and her opposition to anti-Semitism.

"Sister Rose has remained a vigorous champion of these causes through the years, and has been a remarkable inspiration, an authentic role model for thousands of Christians and Jews," said Rabbi James Rudin, the American Jewish Committee's senior interreligious adviser. "She defined her generation of Catholics and she changed history."

Sister Thering received the award during a recent board meeting of the committee.

In the 1960s, Sister Thering, in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee, conducted a groundbreaking study of textbooks used in Catholic schools. Because of her study, significant changes were made in the books' material about Jews, Judaism and the Holocaust.

Sister Thering taught at the Institute for Judeo-Christian Studies at

Seton Hall University in New Jersey for more than 30 years. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she founded the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, a broad-based membership group that builds Christian public support for the security and survival of Israel.

She led scores of study missions to Israel; participants always included Christian leaders from the United States and Canada, among them Catholics, Protestants and Eastern Orthodox. She was a national leader in the Soviet Jewry campaign and participated in a hunger strike to emphasize her commitment to freeing Soviet Jews.

This is the second time the American Jewish Committee has awarded the Jan Karski honor. Per Ahlmark, a Swedish politician, author and humanitarian, received the inaugural Karski award in May at the American Jewish Committee's annual meeting.

The award is named after a Polish Catholic diplomat who worked with the anti-Nazi underground during World War II and risked his life to tell world leaders about the extermination of the Jews.

"Come away by yourselves... and rest a while." (Mk 6:31)

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Refugee camps becoming permanent homes

CAMPS, from page 1

coming adults with a lost childhood," said Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, a Vatican representative to U.N. and humanitarian organizations based in Geneva.

On Oct. 4, Archbishop Tomasi told the executive committee of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva that the rights that are supposed to be accorded to refugees "too often remain mere words."

Millions of people are denied the right to work, are dependent on food ra-

tions and often are allowed to move only within the strict confines of their camps, Archbishop Tomasi said. With many camps located in remote, poor regions, "refugees and local people are forced to compete for scarce resources," a situation that can spur further conflict, he said.

"The institutional capacity of the international community seems insufficient," he said, adding that not only are greater economic resources needed, but also "political will" if the refugee population is to be helped.

Developed countries "have a moral obligation to do something to prevent so much suffering," the archbishop said.



CNS PHOTO BY FATHER DAVE BOHNSACK

Sudanese refugees find shelter under a tree in the village of Nyala in the Darfur region of western Sudan in early June. Millions of Sudanese have fled from their homes to escape attacks by Arab militias and Sudanese government forces aimed at cleansing the population of non-Arab Muslims.

That includes urgent action on behalf of the thousands of refugees in the Darfur region of western Sudan, where he said 6,000 to 10,000 refugees are dying each month because of violence, lack of food and shortage of medicines.

The international community has condemned violence against the black African population by Arab militias that many say are at least partially backed by the Sudanese government; the United States has called the violence genocide.

"But the talk has not been followed by strong determination," Archbishop Tomasi said, adding that negotiations among contributing nations concerning financial resources to commit to the situation "are slow and difficult."

Many countries favor a plan to deploy African Union troops backed by Western countries, he said, but the logistics are difficult and it might be a few months before troops are in place.

Refugee camps, he said, "are supposed to be for emergencies, but pro-

tracted refugee situations are becoming almost the norm."

The best solution for bringing refugees back to their countries of origin is voluntary repatriation, which "does not mean just going back," Archbishop Tomasi said. There must be conditions of safety and dignity, he said, and the international community must follow up to ensure such conditions even after the emergency situation has subsided.

"Otherwise there is the risk that people are moved from one difficult situation to a life of misery in their own country," he said.

Follow-up measures include removal of land mines, educating youngsters born in camps to adapt to life outside, setting up micro-credit programs and settling property and land rights.

Greater political will and international cooperation are urgently needed, he said, or the solution will become the "warehousing of millions of people in camps in subhuman conditions, without a future."

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Want fries with that?



COURTESY PHOTO

Wanda Garrett, principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, takes an order from students during "McTeacher's Night of the Carolinas" at a High Point McDonald's restaurant Sept. 28. A portion of the sales made from 5-8 p.m. that evening went toward the school. About 60 school families attended for dinner. Working hard alongside Garrett were schoolteachers and staff Rebecca Kageorge at the take-out window, Meredith Chandler and Susan Herendeen at the fryer, and Peggy Hamilton, Marli Hillesheim and Leida Herschel on table-cleaning duty. The students got a kick out of seeing their teachers in such a different setting.

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Duncan Stroik - *Architect, Professor at the University of Notre Dame, and Editor of the journal "Sacred Architecture" will speak on Building Sacred Architecture Today*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20th 7:00 PM
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New school year, new look at Holy Trinity

Parents, volunteers help renovate middle school

CHARLOTTE — Things are falling into place at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. Classes have begun, clubs and sports are under way and phase two of the Campus-Wide Beautification Project is complete.

The project, which began last year, is an effort to show the excellence and beauty that are inside the school reflected on the outside. The project resulted from requests of students, parents and staff and was paid for by PTO fundraising and generous gifts.

Phase one involved a new fence and entrance sign in front of the campus, and was completed at the end of the last school year. Phase two — a number of smaller projects — was completed during the summer.

One noticeable change was the paint — students were greeted with a fresh coat of paint on lockers and hallways. Several murals also have been added. The cafeteria was redone to look like the beach with an ocean scene, lighthouse, surfboards and snack bar, complete with Winston the Bulldog Mascot at the helm.

The teachers' lounge, previously a dark room, was given a new coat of paint, new furniture and a new kitchen area.

The renovations, mostly done by parents and volunteers, have made a big impact already but are not over yet. Phase three is scheduled to begin soon and will include landscaping and a ma-



COURTESY PHOTO

The cafeteria of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte was recently redone to resemble the beach, complete with an ocean, lighthouse and snack bar.

jor library renovation.

"Our students let their lights shine every day in the way they conduct themselves, achieve academic success and serve our community," said Carole Breerwood, principal. "We owe it to them to make this school a shining tribute to them, to their teachers and to their families."

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

All saints and faithful departed

The Catholic calendar places back to back the celebrations of our saints and our departed brothers and sisters. We may speculate and come up with sophisticated theological reasons; however, I feel that the Scripture readings assigned to both events unfold the reasons of both celebrations.

On All Saints Day, Nov. 1, we read the State of the Union Address of Jesus Christ: the Beatitudes. On All Souls Day, Nov. 2, we read Lazarus' resurrection. It doesn't take a genius to understand that the resurrections in our lives take place only when the Gospel's Beatitudes become our Beatitudes.

Luke and Matthew have a different approach and a different version of the same message. Matthew places this sermon on the mountain. For Luke, mountains are for praying and plains are for preaching. Luke's version of the sermon is on level ground, where all kinds of people can hear it.

Both Matthew and Luke begin the sermon with eight pronouncements. In Matthew, all eight are blessed, but Luke again levels the field by making four of the pronouncements Beatitudes and four curses. Four hopes and four nopes.

Jesus is the classic prophet who comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. Future hopefulness and future hopelessness are both included. Dr. Luke the evangelist brings two elements of inclusiveness: the inclusiveness of the hearing brings the inclusiveness of healing.

While Matthew aims the sermon at the disciples, Luke points out that Jesus includes also Judeans, Galileans, Tyrites and Gidonians. The message of the kingdom is not for the Jewish people only.

Our saints can be defined as heroes and role models. I like the way a little girl described the saints while visiting a beautiful cathedral with her aunt. It was late afternoon and the sun's rays were streaming through a stained glass window that featured the figures of several saints.

The little girl pointed to one of the figures standing out in the strong light and asked, "Who is that?"

"That's St. Peter," the aunt replied.

Then pointing to another, the girl asked about another figure.

"That's St. John," was the reply.

With satisfaction, the little girl said, "Well, now I know what a saint is. A saint is somebody the light shines through."

The saints and our faithful departed were not perfect, but the light was shining through them, was it not?

Sins may hinder the transparency of the window or even break the window, so now is the time to clean the window or replace it, if necessary.

Someone has suggested that God created people because he loves stories: Here is one story illustrating our human condition. Two men called on a pious old

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap



monk to seek his advice.

"We acknowledge our sinful ways," they told him, "and we want to clear our consciences. Can you advise us on how to do this and get rid of our guilt?"

The old monk agreed to help. "But first," he said, "you will have to tell me about your sins."

The first man said, "I have committed a terrible sin, a grievous sin."

The second man said, "Oh, I have committed a number of small sins, none of them significant or terribly significant."

The holy man pondered the matter for a while, and then said, "Each of you must bring me a stone, representing each one of his wrongdoings."

The two men set out to carry out the monk's instructions. After a while, the first man staggered back, carrying with him a huge boulder. With a loud grunt he dropped it before the old man.

Then the second man returned carrying a bag of small pebbles, which he promptly laid at the monk's feet.

"Very good work," said the monk. "Now, each of you take your stones and put them back where you found them."

The first man staggered back to the place from which he had brought the huge boulder. But the second man was unable to remember where he had found each of his little pebbles. So he returned to the wise old man and told him that he couldn't carry out his instruction.

The monk replied, "You must realize, my son, that sins are like those stones. If a man commits a big sin, it lies heavily on his conscience. But if he truly repents, the burden is lifted. He is forgiven and the load is taken away."

"But if a man is constantly doing small things that are sinful, he is less likely to repent and more likely to remain a sinner, out of habit. Understand, therefore, that it is just as important to break the habit of committing little sins as it is to avoid a big sin."

The good news is that our Lord is totally accessible to you when it comes to the question of successful living. He offers you guidance, he offers you light. Humble acknowledgment of our absolute need for the light that comes in through the saints and faithful departed is living successfully and joyfully.

Let the light shine, let it shine!

Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Pope asks Catholics to spend time adoring Christ in Blessed Sacrament

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II asked Catholics to spend time during the coming year in adoration before Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament and offer praise to God for the gift of salvation.

At the end of his Oct. 13 general audience, held in a St. Peter's Square, the pope reminded visitors that he officially will begin the Year of the Eucharist Oct. 17.

He encouraged people to commit themselves, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, "to following Jesus, the way, the truth and the life."

"Be frequent adorers of the most holy Eucharist," he said.

In his main audience talk, the pope focused on the canticle of blessing found in St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and used each week in the church's evening prayer.

The canticle from Ephesians begins, "Blessed be the God and father of Our Lord Jesus, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens."

The pope's text described the can-

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II



ticle as a "marvelous expression of the faith and, perhaps, of the liturgy of the church in apostolic times."

The verses offer a "grand icon of Christ, the heart of Christian spirituality and worship," but also the one who creates unity among all the creatures of the universe and gives meaning to human history, the pope wrote.

The passage emphasizes how people are called to be "holy and without blemish" in God's sight, a cleanliness that is not so much the ritual purity referred to in the Old Testament, but rather a purity in love, he wrote.

In Christ, the text said, "we are transfigured creatures," sons and daughters of God and brothers and sisters of all people.

Letters to Editor

Pro-life column delivers horrible truth

Regarding Editor Kevin Murray's pro-life column ("No discount for fallen angels," Oct. 1), I say "bravo" — what a great way to deliver the horrible truth about abortion to your readers.

Thank you for not dancing around the issue. It was delivered head on with no gloss, no apologies.

If more diocesan newspapers would deliver the true facts about abortion to their readers, maybe we as Catholics would be jolted out of our appalling state of complacency and use every means in our power, both as individuals and as a community, to stop the annual slaughter of over 1 million of our brothers and sisters.

Keep up the good work!

— Cindy Brown
Executive Director, Room at the Inn,
Charlotte

'Roe Effect' based on assumptions

In Cathy Cleaver Ruse's column ("The 'Roe Effect,'" Oct. 8), she said that those 40 million people who "would be among us today" (had they not been aborted) would be "very much like us." And that pro-lifers beget pro-lifers and pro-choicers beget pro-choicers.

Her entire article is based on these two totally unsubstantiated assumptions. I also find it interesting that if you use the Wirthlin Worldwide numbers, the difference between conservatives having abortions and liberals having abortions is 1 in 4 vs. 2 in 5. Not exactly a mile-wide gap there.

Perhaps the pro-choice movement is killing itself. But the pro-life movement, evidently, is not very far behind.

— Matt McGarry
Charlotte

The double whammy

Longer lives equal additional responsibilities

It's 4 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon; the sitter has just arrived. A bit limp from chasing my 3-year-old all day with a 20-pound baby in my arms, I scan my to-do list and feel weighted by its contents: articles half-written, book proposals in limbo, dogs needing annual checkups, groceries, laundry, bills. But I push all of that aside.

Instead I log onto the Internet and google the word "blepharospasm," an abnormal involuntary blinking or spasm of the eyelids. My mom has this rare disorder and in the last four months has become immune to treatments. That means she is legally blind, unable to do the routine activities most of us take for granted: drive, run errands, walk from point A to point B without assistance.

After a few good cries and vent sessions with close friends on how I'm not ready to become caretaker to one more person and how my mom is supposed to help me at this stage in my life, reality settles. I kiss goodbye the denial that my mom will see again and be able to baby-sit my two munchkins for a week, allowing my husband and me to enjoy a week in

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



Barbados, or even a night out sometime.

Unfortunately, this, the double whammy, is one of the curses — along with bags under the eyes and around-the-clock exhaustion — that women endure when they start their families in their 30s and early 40s. As you age, so do your parents. So new moms, who traditionally had nana and papa to pitch in, end up doing double duty, especially since people are living longer these days.

According to Brian D. Carpenter, an assistant professor of psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, by 2050 more than 20 percent of Americans will be over age 65 and living longer, healthier lives than ever before. The inevitable assistance they will need will fall mostly on the

shoulders of their adult children.

"This is the first time in history that American couples have had more parents than children," says Carpenter. "The average American woman can expect to spend 18 years caring for an older family member, compared to 17 for her children."

Mostly it's Mom that we're worried about because even though both men and women are living longer there still exists a gender gap, indicating that men are dying before women, leaving the latter to move in with the children or find assisted living until the ripe old age of 77 or 78, the average age of death for a woman.

So which adult child shoulders the brunt of caretaking responsibilities for Mom? The faithful daughter.

According to a 2002 study by the Family Caregiver Alliance, 28 percent of care to older adults is provided by daughters, 26 percent by other relatives, 24 percent by spouses and only 16 percent by sons.

In India, a mother is wished "many sons," because with daughters come expensive dowries. But in America Mom might statistically be better off with the other gender.

Our Mom, still young at 64, is blessed with four daughters: one to write the checks, one to run errands, one to cook and the other to write columns about all the things she should be doing but can't with two children of her own more than 500 miles away from her mom and sisters in Ohio.

How are relics classified?

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. Please explain what constitutes a first- or second-class relic? When did we start honoring relics? (Illinois)

A. "Classes" of relics traditionally are based on the closeness of their relationship to a particular saint. First-class relics are parts of the body, most often part of the bone. Second-class relics are items used during the saint's life, such as clothing. Third-class are objects that have touched a first-class relic.

Veneration of relics of the saints, especially of martyrs, goes back at least to the second Christian century. It was a way of honoring the saint and of asking his or her intercession before God in heaven.

Sale of relics is absolutely forbidden by the church, a rule which may seem odd and unnecessary to us but which was required because of abuses that grew through the centuries.

More than 1,000 years ago, possessing a major relic of a saint began to be a source of prestige for churches and monasteries. Buying, selling, even stealing bodies or parts of bodies of saints became common. Today, such transfer or "alienation" of major relics from one place to another without the pope's permission is forbidden.

Catholic regulations concerning relics are in the Code of Canon Law, No. 1090.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

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The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Roaring engines and the Lord's whisper

Sometimes we don't see God's signs

There is an old joke about a man who waits for instructions from God as a hurricane approaches his home. Neighbors tell him to leave, the sheriff comes to his door and does the same, but the man refuses because he has not yet heard from the Lord.

The storm comes and smashes his house and he dies. When the man arrives in heaven the first thing he asks God is, "Why didn't you send me a sign that the storm would kill me?"

"Are you kidding?" asks the Lord, "I sent your neighbors and the sheriff, but you wouldn't listen."

The joke came to mind as I read recent press accounts of Dale Earnhardt Jr., the swashbuckling superstar of NASCAR automobile racing. Junior, as he is always referred to, has legions of adoring fans, sponsorships that are worth millions and the legacy of his departed and nearly deified father, Dale Earnhardt Sr.

Junior was in a terrible accident at a racetrack in California in July and has only recently talked about it. During the accident, his car caught fire and the cockpit became an inferno with the temperature rising from 115 degrees to more than 750 degrees in a second and a half. That's hot. Fortunately, Junior escaped from the burning vehicle and suffered only some

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



second-degree burns.

But what is amazing about this accident is Junior's account of his escape from the car. He doesn't remember specific details but he has spoken about a feeling that someone rescued him. Videotape shows he got out of the car himself. By his own account, in an interview with CBS News, he said, "I swear somebody had me underneath my arms and was carrying me out of the car."

Junior clearly feels that some unseen force helped him get out of the burning wreckage. But who? Certainly the Lord is capable of such a miracle, but the media assumed his late father offered an unseen hand from beyond the grave. Again, in the CBS interview Junior says, "It freaks me out today just talking about it. It just gives me chills."

There is an assumption in the

questions that Junior was rescued so that he might drive again. But surely another possibility exists. As with the man in the hurricane who can't seem to see the signs posted by God, it's fair to ask if Junior is missing something. Was he helped out of the car this one time or was an unseen hand leading him to a different life?

Most of us have heard stories of people who survive near-death experiences and radically change their lives as a result. For Junior, that doesn't appear to be the case — he immediately returned to the life of fast cars. In early October, he won the race at Talladega and celebrated by invoking his father's name.

We are each behind the wheel of our destiny, and discerning the direction of God's plan for us can be difficult unless we are willing to listen, through a life of prayer, to what God is trying to tell us. It is an interesting news story to hint that the late Dale Earnhardt Sr. hovers protectively above his son's racecar. It is a better news story to consider the possibility that the Lord's plan is in place at the racetrack, even if the driver may not be listening.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

SERVING UP FAITH

'Holy Smoke' tastes so good

Catholic churches supply food for fund-raiser

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

BRASSTOWN — The "sinful" potatoes (sinfully delicious, that is) were kept away from the "angel" eggs — until they got onto diners' plates, where they met a variety of other tasty treats during the fifth annual Holy Smoke.

Holy Smoke, held at the Brasstown Community Center Oct. 7, raised more than \$1,700 to buy materials for HouseRaising Volunteers of Cherokee and Clay Counties, an organization similar to Habitat for Humanity.

More than 200 people chose samples from among the foods on the tables in a semicircle in the community center.

Some 20 churches and other Christian organizations provided such fare as deep-fried salmon, Mexican cornbread, Swedish meatballs, Chinese slaw, chicken and shrimp gumbo, and cheese grits. Father John Rice of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Hayesville served up chili and rice, "a heavenly dish."

Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin, representing Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, provided the eight dozen "angel" eggs. Of course, as someone said, Sister Martin



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin (left), from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, and Father George Kloster, Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbell and Rosie Stillwagon from St. William Church in Murphy, prepare to dish up goodies during the Holy Smoke fund-raiser Oct. 7.

wouldn't bring "deviled" eggs.

Those eggs were right next to "the world's best cole slaw," made by parishioners at St. William Church in Murphy and served by Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Also from St. William, Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbell presented ambrosia, Ted and Afra Wade offered spicy chicken

wings and Susan and Flo Valentine served spaghetti salad and sauerkraut and kielbasa.

"Our people are involved in a lot of things," Father Kloster said. "They're very active in the community. The idea of providing housing is very basic to Catholic social teaching and this is done ecumenically. It bears a good witness to the community that the churches come together to do this every year."

Rev. Mr. Hubbell, HouseRaising Volunteers vice president, joined the or-

ganization after Sister Martin invited him to a board meeting.

His favorite part, he said, is "the day we give the key to the new owner. We have a special ceremony and a blessing. It's such a satisfying thing with all the churches (involved)."

HouseRaising Volunteers, started on its own 10 years ago, merged for a couple of years with the Hinton Rural Life Center, then split off again. It builds an average of two houses a year, one each in Cherokee and Clay counties. All labor is volunteer, except for a paid foreman.

HouseRaising Volunteers builds only for families with children. It takes seven weeks to five months to complete each house. The future homeowners are encouraged to help with construction.

"It's a program that works," said Edwin Manchester, HouseRaising Volunteers construction chair. "There are 60-plus children in good homes that weren't before."

St. William Church parishioners Rosie and Don Stillwagon have recently signed up to help build houses. They were recently in Homosassa Springs, Fla., to clear trees that Hurricane Francis downed in his mother's yard, but they hastened back to Murphy to prepare teriyaki stir-fry to serve at Holy Smoke.

"We heard a lot about (HouseRaising Volunteers) and we wanted to get more involved in the community," Rosie said.

"It's just wonderful to have people work together," Sister Martin said, "such a cooperative sharing of the churches."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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— Tony Gagliardo, President, The Catholic Company at Lake Norman

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—Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte

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| PAGE 16

OCTOBER 22, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 4

SERVANTS OF THE LITURGY

Deacons, wives
gather, revitalize
at annual retreat

BY DEACON GERALD
POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Deacon Eugene Gillis is refocused on his ministry.

"I came to get whatever the Lord provides during these retreats and I always get something," said Deacon Gillis, permanent deacon at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville. "Usually I am unaware of what it is until it hits me. Each (retreat) has been unique and I have gotten something from each one of them."

Deacon Gillis was one of 110 deacons and wives who attended their annual retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Oct. 8-10. The retreat, this year with

See RETREAT, page 7

A shepherd of the people

*Bishop's first
year a busy,
productive one*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The past 12 months have flown by for Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"It has been just as busy as I expected, from observing Bishop (John F.) Donoghue and Bishop (William G.) Curlin," said Bishop Jugis of his first year as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

He is discovering that just as in parish life, a bishop's ministry has to be based in prayer. Without prayer, his ministry would lose its "soul," he said.

"It has to be Christ-centered — based in prayer and your living relationship with

See SHEPHERD, page 8



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers Communion to Bill Tennant during the first Mass on the new property of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville Aug. 1. Since being ordained bishop in October 2003, Bishop Jugis has visited 52 of the 92 parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Pope says Eucharist is 'light' needed by world

Eucharistic congress closes with televised message from pope

BY JASON LANGE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — The 48th International Eucharistic Congress closed with a televised message from Pope John Paul II to a stadium in Mexico brimming with tens of thousands of the faithful.

Speaking from St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 17, the pope said the congress "in-

See EUCHARIST, page 12

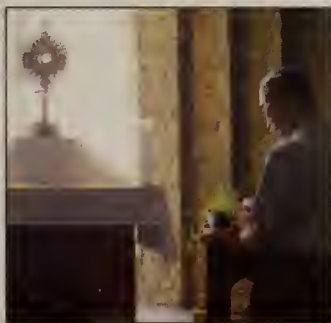


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacon Art Kingsley kneels in eucharistic adoration in Hickory.

Actress shares her story of abortion, recovery

*Annual banquet
benefits Catholic
maternity home*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Church is leading the fight against the "holocaust" of abortion, according

to actress Jennifer O'Neill.

"Catholic organizations do the best work I've ever seen in the life movement," she said. "I'm honored to be affiliated with them."

O'Neill was the featured speaker at "Promises of Hope," the 10th annual banquet benefiting Room at the Inn, a

See ABORTION, page 5



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Jennifer O'Neill during the annual Room at the Inn banquet in Charlotte Oct. 14.

In Our Schools

Student to have story published;
Students quilt for causes

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New book: Vatican as office
park; 'Vera Drake' review

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election year

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SHELL-SHOCKED



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

An Iraqi priest comforts an elderly woman outside a Catholic church in Baghdad, Iraq, following a bomb blast in the church Oct. 16. The church was badly damaged following coordinated attacks that damaged five churches. No casualties were reported.

Iraqi church bombings prompt Vatican concern for Christians' fate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The bombing of five more churches in Baghdad, Iraq, has prompted new Vatican concern about the fate of Iraqi Christian communities.

The rudimentary but powerful bombs exploded within an hour and a half of each other beginning at 4 a.m. Oct. 16. No one was injured or killed, but heavy damage was reported to several of the churches.

At the Chaldean Church of St. Joseph, which was gutted by the bomb blast and a subsequent fire, Sunday Mass was celebrated Oct. 17 following an all-night cleanup effort.

Other churches that suffered damage were identified as the Latin-rite Church of Rome, the Orthodox churches of St. Jacob and St. George, and the Syrian Orthodox Church of St. Thomas.

Last August, car bombs at five Catholic churches killed 11 people and sparked an exodus of at least 10,000 Iraqi Christians into neighboring Syria and Jordan, church officials said.

Syrian Catholic Archbishop Basile Georges Casmoussa of Mosul, Iraq, expressed shock and sorrow at the news. One of the churches bombed in August was in Mosul.

The terrorist groups that carry out such attacks "hope that many, many

more Christians will go," Archbishop Casmoussa said. "Their strategy is to create fear among the Christians and push them out of Iraq."

Following the latest bombings, the Vatican's missionary news agency, Fides, published what it called a "list of horrors," the names of 88 Iraqi Christians and the dates they were killed, almost all of them during the last nine months. The latest was a 14-year-old girl, a Chaldean Catholic, kidnapped by an Islamic group for ransom and killed "in cold blood" Oct. 14, it said.

Vatican officials have confirmed that acts of violence and intimidation against Iraqi Christians are increasing, as Muslim extremists consolidate their influence in Iraqi society.

Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad said the recent church bombings were clearly designed to frighten Christians, but noted that the homes of many Iraqi Muslims were also being attacked. It is a problem shared by all those working for peace, he said.

Patriarch Delly said only prayer would stop these kinds of attacks.

"May the Lord touch the minds of these people, who do not love Iraq," he said.

Iraq has about 700,000 Christians in a population of more than 25 million.

Brochure details religious services available at U.S. airports

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Frequent fliers looking for a little religious respite have a new resource available to them to locate Catholic religious services at airports across the United States.

A brochure on "Catholic Civil Aviation Apostolate," published by the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains, lists the airports where Catholic Mass is offered on Sundays, weekdays and holy days; where the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick are available; and which airports — with or without a chapel — have Catholic chaplains available for "a simple ministry of presence."

A map in the brochure depicts each of the 35 U.S. airports at which a chapel or chaplain are available. Most are in the eastern half of the United States.

"The availability of pastoral ser-

vices in airports is a rather recent development," the brochure notes, adding that Cardinal Richard Cushing established the first airport chapel at Logan International Airport in Boston in 1950.

"Today over 100 airport chapels in 50 nations offer pastoral care," it adds.

Chaplains minister not only to passengers but to airport and airline personnel, families, visitors, the homeless and refugees, the brochure says.

The brochure was distributed to each of the U.S. bishops along with a letter encouraging its use from Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, episcopal liaison for civil aviation apostolates.

Editor's Note: Copies of the brochure are available from the U.S. bishops' Office of Human Mobility Apostolates by calling: (202) 541-3226.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, will present in *Parish Mission* Oct. 31-Nov. 4. The Oct. 31 session begins at 7 p.m. and weekday sessions meet 9:15-9:45 a.m., 1-1:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 693-6901 or the Faith Formation office at (828) 697-7420.

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — Solomon House and the Alzheimer's Association will sponsor a free informative Lunch and Learn panel discussion about *Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia* at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Nov. 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Please register ahead so we can prepare for the lunch with Teresa Hoover at (704) 532-7390 or Cyndi Jo Brady at (704) 875-0677. Come to learn and

ask questions of the panel while enjoying lunch!

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover will teach a series of classes on the *History of the Catholic Church* beginning Oct. 22 at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. classes will meet Fridays at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To register, call Sister Grover at (704) 545-1224.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to "Moving On," based on Susan Miller's book "After the Boxes are Unpacked." We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes meet Wednesdays through Nov. 17 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15-11:30 a.m. Call Gigi at (704) 895-3310 or Merry at (704) 947-9547 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* will host a Spiritual Growth Seminar this fall. The final sessions will meet Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 7-8 p.m. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

CHARLOTTE — *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is offered in the chapel of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass until Saturday at 9 a.m. Adorers are needed, particularly during the hours of midnight-6 a.m. for more information, call Charles and Bernice Kish at (704) 846-7387.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says preserving biodiversity is concrete way to fight hunger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said preserving biodiversity is a “concrete means for fighting the hunger and malnutrition of so many of our brothers and sisters.”

Marking the Oct. 16 celebration of World Food Day, the pope said ensuring that the world’s people have enough food and a nutritional diet requires that they have access to a variety of plants and animals.

The pope sent his message to Jacques Diouf, director of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, which sponsors World Food Day. The theme for the 2004 celebration was “Biodiversity for Food Security.”

In his message, released Oct. 15, Pope John Paul said governments must pay more attention to the needs and knowledge of farmers, particularly in indigenous communities, when setting farm policy.

“It appears there is a real risk of an abusive exploitation of their lands and the destruction of their traditional habitats,” as well as a serious ignorance of the fact that many of the poorest farmers have learned to survive precisely by ensuring they have a diversity of crops and livestock.

Marking World Food Day at the FAO headquarters in Rome Oct. 15, Diouf said biodiversity must be maintained in nature and on farms to ensure for all people sustainable access to enough diversified and nutritious food.

“FAO estimates that about three-quarters of the genetic diversity of agricultural crops has been lost over the last century. Just 12 crops and 14 animal species now provide most of the world’s food,” he said.

- GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Rev. John Frambes, OFM, Campus Minister at UNC-G, Guilford and Greensboro Colleges, and St. Francis Springs Prayer Center staff member, will present “The Psalter: Prayers of Compassion and Justice” at The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., Oct. 26, 12:10-1 p.m. Please pre-register by calling (336) 273-2554.
- GREENSBORO

— All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Nov. 4 to elect the 2005-2007 slate of officers at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.
- GREENSBORO

— A series of *Coffee Talks* will be held at Saint Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. 10:30-11:15 a.m. every Sunday morning through Nov. 21. Topics will include stewardship, heaven, purgatory, saints and forgiveness. For details, contact the church office at (336) 272-4681.
- HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day Ecumenical Worship Service* will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 1644 Main Avenue Dr., Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. this year’s theme is “In Faith, Women Shape the Future for Peace.” Guest speaker will be Rev. Alice Johnson Curl, associate pastor of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church. For more information, contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.
- NEWTON

— The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls’ Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.
- HICKORY

— A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at

Pope says governments must do more to fight child abuse, exploitation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Governments must do more to fight the abuse and exploitation of children within their borders and beyond, Pope John Paul II said.

“No one can be silent or remain indifferent when innocent children suffer or are marginalized and wounded in their dignity as human persons,” the pope said Oct. 18 during a meeting with participants in an international conference of women legislators.

The Oct. 17-18 conference, sponsored by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, brought together about 200 female legislators from 107 countries to focus on efforts to protect children and adolescents.

Welcoming the legislators to the Vatican, Pope John Paul praised them for focusing their joint efforts on protecting the young.

“I encourage you to continue on this path in the awareness that children and adolescents are the future and hope of humanity,” he said.

“They are the most precious treasure of the human family, but at the same time, they are most fragile and vulnerable,” the pope said.

Conference participants discussed national policies and international efforts to reduce the trafficking of children, sexual abuse, sex tourism based on the exploitation of children, child labor and the use of child soldiers.

They also examined ways to promote children’s health and nutrition, to fight disease, to build strong families, to promote education and to increase the participation of children in sports.

“The immense cry of pain from children abandoned and violated in many parts of the world must spur public institutions, private associations and all people of good will to renew their awareness of the obligation we all have to protect, defend and educate these fragile creatures with respect and love,” the pope said.

Dancing delight



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO PAPARATTI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Russian dancers perform during a celebration at the Vatican marking the 26th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s pontificate. A 150-member Russian army orchestra, choir and dance troupe performed for the 84-year-old pope Oct. 15 in the only official Vatican celebration of the pope’s anniversary. The pope has wanted to visit Russia, but has been unable to, due to tension with the Russian Orthodox Church.

THIS MONTH IN — 1992

Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue announced Oct. 21 that perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament would begin in mid-November at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. Bishop Donoghue said it was in response to many Catholics who had “inquired about having eucharistic adoration at one of our churches - a place where the Blessed Sacrament would be exposed and the faithful invited to spend silent time in prayer with our eucharistic Lord.” In January 2004, Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the church’s expanded eucharistic adoration chapel, designed to accommodate growth of the devotion.

NOTICE TO READERS

The next issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, Oct. 29, will include the annual diocesan finance report.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- Oct. 24 — 2:30 p.m. Mass

Diocesan Celebration in honor of Marriage Anniversaries

St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
- Oct. 28 — 2:30 p.m. Mass

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Catholic youths to serve on representative's advisory council

Students share opinions on politics, government

BELMONT — Three young parishioners of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont will have added responsibilities this school year.

T.J. Stocker, Christopher Dean and Adam Herre are among the new students named to participate on the Youth Advisory Council to U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., for the 2004-2005 school year.

The council is a group of high school students from different schools who have shown an interest in the func-

tions of the legislative branch of government. Group members are selected based on a number of factors, including academic success, volunteer activities and extracurricular participation.

The council meets on a regular basis to talk and share their opinions with Myrick about current events, politics and government.

Stocker also serves as the junior teen representative to the pastoral council at Queen of the Apostles Church.



COURTESY PHOTO

T.J. Stocker, Christopher Dean and Adam Herre of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont have been selected to serve on the Youth Advisory Council of U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., for the 2004-2005 school year.

To counsel the pastor



COURTESY PHOTO BY TOM STOCKER SR.

Pastoral council installed at Queen of the Apostles

Installation of the 2004-2005 pastoral council members at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont was held during an Oct. 10 Mass celebrated by Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor. Each member serves a three-year term and serves in an advisory capacity to the pastor and commissions in the day-to-day activities and ministries of the parish community. The pastoral council includes two teen-age representatives, six at-large members and seven commission heads.

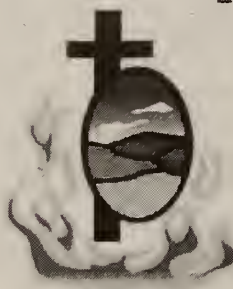
Pictured are (front row, from left): Janette Blandford, stewardship; Cathy Pullen, at large; Jennifer Church, secretary, ecumenism and outreach; Alfreda Tanski, at large; Lee Stocker, chairperson; Jasia Dudko, at large; Walt Baronowski, community building; Lisa Valdez, communications; (second row, from left) Mary Kane, education and faith formation; Lawton Blandford, co-chair worship and spiritual life; Sharon Doerer, co-chair worship and spiritual life; Sarah Gonzales, senior teen representative; Phil Baucom, vice chairperson; Father Zuschmidt; TJ Stocker III, junior teen representative; Tom Balke, administration; Mark Colone, at large.

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Diane Lampitt, MRE, President, Harcourt Religion Publishers (English)
Dr. Dora Tobar, Professor, Catholic University and Northeast Institute for Pastoral Formation, Washington, DC (Spanish)

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— Tony Gagliardo, President, **The Catholic Company at Lake Norman**

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Actress shares abortion story at annual banquet

ABORTION, from page 1

Catholic maternity home in Charlotte that offers pregnancy assistance for single, pregnant women and their babies, both born and unborn.

Approximately 1,000 people attended the banquet at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 14. Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who gave the invocation, was honored with the Msgr. William Wellein Award for Outstanding Service in part for the recent "Worthy to Receive the Lamb" statement addressing pro-abortion politicians receiving the Eucharist.

O'Neill, the 2003 recipient of the Proudly Pro-Life Award from the National Right to Life Committee and a spokeswoman for Silent No More, said Room at the Inn's work is "phenomenal."

"Last year, I did about 48 crisis pregnancy center fund-raisers and I'm thrilled to be here because (Room at the Inn) is a little bit different," she said during a pre-banquet interview. "We all have the heart for the child, but here there's great recognition for loving the mother. We don't want to separate the mother and the child."

O'Neill said, "Everybody's story about abortion is about as unique as their own DNA," including her own abortion, which she had at age 22 or 23 in the early 1970s after her then-fiance became upset upon learning she was pregnant. She already had one child at the time.

"Eighty percent of women who have abortions are coerced in some fashion, whether it's pressure from the parents or society, school or their age, financially or spiritually," she said.

"In my case, it wasn't that I couldn't afford to have the child," she said. "I was thrilled to be pregnant ... but despite my exuberance and excitement, the dad just flat out did not want the baby at all. I folded emotionally."

"And it happened at a time when abortion was just legal. It was before the advent of the ultrasound, before my faith in Christ," said O'Neill. "I didn't know

'When we finally realize that we're not designed to kill our children ... there is the hope and healing through Christ.'

God's authority on the issue. I didn't know how to respond to the fact that I was told the lie from the pit of hell — that I was just carrying a 'blob of tissue' or a 'cluster of cells' — so I suffered for many years with regret, shame. And that's not unusual for the 25 million women since Roe v. Wade."

She suffered nine miscarriages after her abortion.

"Not knowing Christ and feeling the shame, I felt that every miscarriage that I had was somehow payback — I wasn't allowed to have a baby because I had done that heinous act of abortion," she said. "That's not how God functions; God doesn't punish us that way. I've come to know that since I've come to know Christ and his grace and forgiveness, but I think a lot of women struggle with that."

"No matter how one comes to the conclusion of abortion in their minds — it's a quick fix, it's under duress — it sometimes sentences you to a lifelong dealing of guilt and shame," said O'Neill.

"The parents who took their teenage daughter to get an abortion thinking she needs a new start, an education or so forth, are not cognizant of the fact that they may be sentencing their daughter to higher percentages of cancer, depression, drug abuse and so on," she said.

And many fathers and extended families also suffer, said O'Neill.

"The walking wounded, the millions and millions of affected individuals, also need to be addressed," she said.

"Their feelings should not be squashed by Prozac or any kind of other drugs," said O'Neill. "When we finally realize that we're not designed to kill our children and that there is an aftermath that is devastating, as devastating as that is, there is the hope and healing through Christ."



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Deacon Ben Wenning, Father Robert Conway and Father Tien Duong stand for the national anthem during Room at the Inn's banquet in Charlotte Oct. 14.

O'Neill said there is a story to be told about the "truth of abortion."

"Everyone needs to make an informed decision," she said. "Choice is not the issue; the issue is you have no choice if you have not the truth."

Eighty percent of women considering abortion change their minds when they have an ultrasound performed, said O'Neill.

"Those who get to see the humanity of their child in their womb don't believe it's a 'blob of tissue'. It's a baby," she said.

She also said there is an awareness of the truth spreading across America.

"Seventy percent of all teen-agers are pro-life ... the youth are turning around," she said. "My theory is that the teen-agers realize that if they had been conceived at an ill-conceived moment, for any reason whatsoever, they could have just been eliminated."

God makes no mistakes, she said, and women are beginning to realize that.

"As God says in his authority: You were not a mistake. I knew you before the creation of time. I knew you as I knit you together in your mother's womb," said O'Neill.

She commended those who work at and support Room at the Inn.

"Girls who are carrying unexpected pregnancies and have no place else to go find Room at the Inn," she said. "They find loving, Christian hearts; they find education; they find financial, spiritual, mental and physical support."

Since opening its doors in December

1994, Room at the Inn has served more than 300 women and their children. More than just a place to live, Room at the Inn offers women a Christ-centered rehabilitation program, based on education, personal responsibility and spiritual direction punctuated with mental health and adoption counseling services.

Transportation to medical and social appointments, work and school is provided, as is training in parenting, nutrition, budgeting, chastity and job skills.

Guests at Room at the Inn are allowed to stay up to 24 months, as long as they are working toward independent living.

"It's a place where they can go and they can feel loved and proud of their motherhood, whether they adopt out the baby or they raise that child," said O'Neill. "They see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. They see that although they made some wrong decisions that arrived at an unexpected pregnancy, God makes no mistakes."

"We're all a work in progress," she said, and women who have had abortions need to know "there is help, hope, reconciliation, healing and forgiveness in Jesus Christ."

"God does not want us bound to our past, ruining our future even if we have eternal life, because the enemy loves that," she said. "The enemy would like to keep us under that umbrella of secrecy, shame and guilt."

"The truth will set you free," she said.



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Little people, big hearts



COURTESY PHOTO

Alex Best (right), a third-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, hams it up with friends Dwight Watt of Anderson, S.C., and Julia Sims (center), a third-grader at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, during a regional Little People of America Regional Conference in Wilmington Sept. 10-12. Little People of America, Inc., is a nonprofit organization that provides support and information to people of short stature and their families. For a class paper, Alex wrote this about his trip: "Julia and Dwight's parents are little too just like mine. We know that God makes everyone different. Some people are big and some little, some skinny, some fat. We are all the same inside! I sure had fun!"

Quilting faces



COURTESY PHOTO

Carolyn Barcafer, kindergarten teacher, and students stand with a quilt they made this school year at Asheville Catholic School. The students drew their faces with fabric crayon and Barcafer ironed the drawings onto the material. The quilt is the third Barcafer has done in a year - last year's class drew leaves that she ironed onto a quilt, which still hangs on a classroom wall; Barcafer also made a quilt for a school fund-raiser, which sold for \$2,500. "Although I have sewed, I had never made a quilt until last year," said Barcafer. "It is fun to do and the children enjoyed being a part of making the quilt."

Catholic student to have story published

Walker joins eight other IHM students to feature works

HIGH POINT — A student at Immaculate Heart of Mary School will soon have a story published.

A short story by seventh-grader Kara Walker has been selected for publication in the 2004 edition of the *Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans*.

Walker's story "Do You Believe?" was selected by the publishers for the next edition of this book.

Now in its third year, the *Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans* was created by Anthology of Poetry, Inc., in Asheboro in response to requests by teachers in almost every state to assist in the development of young writers, according to the organization's Web site.

Walker is the ninth student at Immaculate Heart of Mary School to have original work published.

As reported in previous issues of *The Catholic News & Herald*, seventh-grader Donna Ashley Elliot will also have a story published in the anthology. Seven other Immaculate Heart of Mary School students will have their poetry published in another publication, the 2004 edition of the *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kara Walker, a seventh-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, will have her story published in the 2004 edition of the *Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans*.



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Cuban native joins national scholar society

CHARLOTTE — Claudia Flacon, a senior at Independence High School and parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, has been selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars.

The society invites only those students who have superior academic achievement and are among the top scholars in the nation.

Claudia, born in Havana, Cuba, won contests in mathematics, physics and others. As an active member of her church, she was selected to be a special guest during a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in Cuba.

"When God gave me the opportunity to come to America, I decided to improve and be successful," she said.

For her academic achievements, Claudia was nominated to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, the National



Claudia Flacon

Technical Honor Society and Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Claudia volunteers at Carolinas Medical Center and is an altar server at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

"I hope my efforts can make me reach my goals and make my dreams come true," she said.



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis discusses the General Instruction of the Roman Missal with Deacon Art Kingsley and Deacon George McMahon during the annual deacon and wives retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Oct. 8-10.

Retreat revitalizes deacons, wives

RETREAT, from page 1

Bishop Peter J. Jugis as the guest speaker, is designed to revitalize and strengthen the participants in their ministry.

"The deacon is the closest to what is happening at the altar," said Bishop Jugis. "Therefore, his spirituality, must be eucharistic ... the Eucharist is the center of the life of the church ... the center of our spiritual reflection."

"The most prominent place we meet Christ is at the center of the Catholic Church — the celebration of the Eucharist," said the bishop. "The parish must become a school of prayer where we have an intimate relationship with the Lord."

"Central to the ministry of deacons and the source of grace and sanctification are 1) the liturgy, by which (deacons) provide supplemental assistance to the bishop and the priests; 2) the proclamation of the Word, because the Book of Gospels is given to deacons in ordination; and 3) charity in the likeness of Christ whom he (the deacon) represents."

Much of the remaining sessions were devoted to clarification and questions about serving at Mass.

Bishop Jugis passed out two books: the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which is part of the Sacramentary and spells out what is supposed to take place during the celebration of the Mass; and the "Instruction on the Eucharist" — both were published with the authority of the Vatican.

"If liturgy is not done well, every other ministry is going to limp along," said Bishop Jugis. "What we believe will affect how we approach the liturgy. Not only is the deacon to be the servant of the liturgy, the priest also has to be the servant of the liturgy."

"This weekend is a commentary of the deacons and their wives and their deep rooted spirituality," said Rev. Mr. Ron Sherwood, who is serving at St. Mark Church in Huntersville. "I was glad to have the privilege of the bishop's presence and instruction."

Deacon Sherwood, who recently moved into the diocese from Canton, Ohio, felt welcomed at the retreat.

"I met a lot of new friends and truly enjoyed the camaraderie," he said. "I am very thankful for this prayerful weekend experience and am looking forward to our next meeting."

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Father Joseph Ayathupadam (left) and Deacon Richard Kauth shovel dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the activity center at Holy Spirit Church in Denver Dec. 7, 2003.

SHEPHERD, from page 1

the Lord," the bishop said. "I've seen that prayer is even more essential than in my parish ministry."

Bishop Jugis made many accomplishments during the past year — numerous confirmations, visits to parishes and schools, dedication Masses and two visits to Rome. But he is most proud of his ordination of four men to the priesthood.

"To give the gift of more priests to the (Catholic) Church is the greatest service I can give as bishop," he said. "These men will serve for the next 40 or 50 years and touch many people's lives."

Being selected as bishop of a growing and increasingly diverse diocese has proved to be a challenge to the young bishop, just 46 years old at his ordination Oct. 24, 2003. Bishop Jugis had to spend a significant amount of time becoming fully familiar with the extent of the clergy sex abuse crisis in the United States.

He also is responsible for presenting the Catholic Church's teaching on a range of topics, from abortion to the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Included in his audience are members of the secular press, who don't

necessarily have the benefit of a full understanding of the Catholic faith.

Recently, Bishop Jugis met with several members of the press and answered questions ranging from the ordination of women to his alleged shyness. He isn't shy, he said — but he does consider himself contemplative.

His popularity among his flock is evident at every public event he attends — from the warm smiles of his parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe on the Sunday following the announcement of his election as the fourth bishop of Charlotte in August 2003, to the scores of people who lined up to greet him at the Room at the Inn in Charlotte banquet Oct. 14.

"Everywhere I go, people have been most encouraging of me and of my service as shepherd of the diocese," the bishop said. "People always tell me they are praying for me — I can feel the inner strength which comes from the grace of

See SHEPHERD, next page

Reflecting on a

Bishop Jugis accomplishes much during



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Jugis anoints newly ordained Father Robert Conway's hands with sacred chrism during the ordination Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte June 5.

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lling to serve

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PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Jugis greets people following the rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte March 6.

"Come away by yourselves...
and rest a while." (Mk 6:31)

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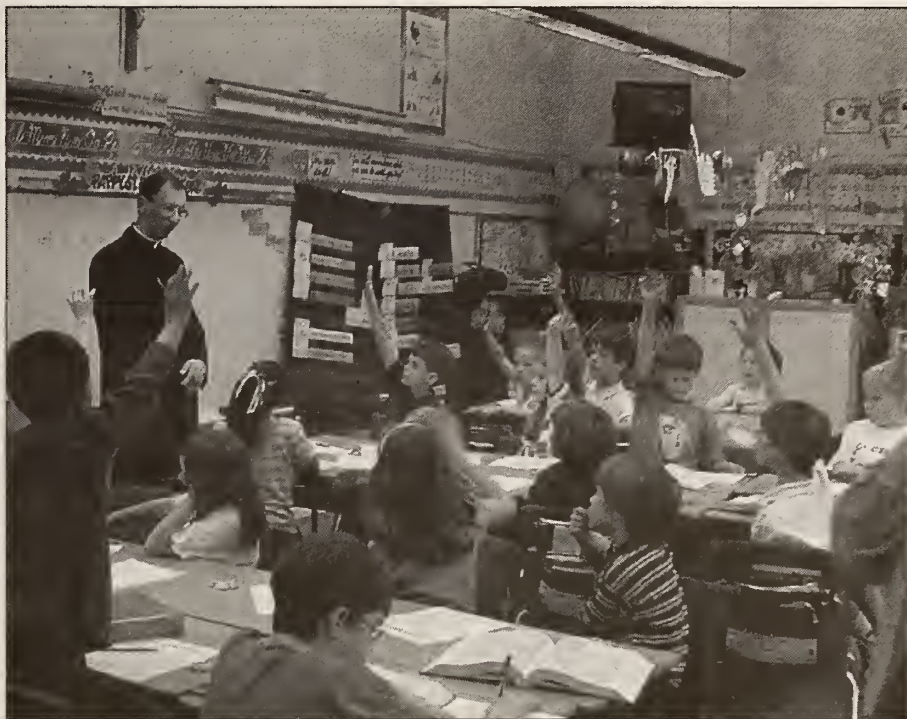
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COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jugis visits students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte after saying Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

SHEPHERD, from previous page

those prayers."

For the immediate future, he will continue to fulfill the promise he made at his episcopal ordination to visit each parish and school within the diocese. So far, he has called upon 52 parishes and 9 schools.

"I ask the people to please be patient with me," he said. "I am going to make it to each place."

Bishop Jugis has set as one of his top priorities to make welcome the multitudes of newcomers to the diocese, particularly immigrants from other nations.

The bishop also plans to focus on the Year of the Eucharist, which began Oct. 17, by participating in regional and diocesan celebrations.

Pope John Paul II has encouraged Catholics to commit themselves, "to following Jesus, the way, the truth and the life," and frequently adore the Eucharist during the next 12 months.

"As a priest, and now as bishop, I love meeting and serving the people," Bishop Jugis said. "I take them into my heart and pray for everyone."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans
by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail
kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Bishop Jugis' first year included:

- 2 — Visits to the Vatican
- 2 — U.S. bishops' meetings
- 2 — Groundbreakings for new parish facilities
- 3 — Rites of election
- 3 — Men ordained to the transitional diaconate
- 3 — Dedications of new churches
- 4 — Men ordained to the priesthood
- 9 — Schools visited
- 10 — Vicariate celebrations
- 16 — Men admitted to candidacy for permanent diaconate
- 34 — Sacrament of confirmation Masses celebrated
- 52 — Parishes visited

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

New book: Vatican as corporate office park

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM G. YEARLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"All the Pope's Men: The Inside Story of How the Vatican Really Thinks" is the newest book by John L. Allen Jr., Vatican-beat reporter for the U.S. weekly *National Catholic Reporter* newspaper.

In the introduction, Allen states the central purpose of his book "is to bring the local church from which I come, and, more broadly, the English-speaking world, into more fruitful conversation with the center of the universal church in Rome."

He leads us through his "Vatican 101," a basic course exploring myths, psychology, sociology and theology and he dispels what he calls the top five myths about the Vatican:

— First, there is no monolithic "Vatican" with a single mind; instead, it is a diverse bureaucracy.

— Second, the question "Who's in charge?" assumes there is one person in charge of everything, which there isn't.

— Third, the place is not really ultrasecretive, though it is not really transparent either.

— Fourth, it is not really that rich. The Vatican, Allen says, "has an annual operating budget of \$260 million." By contrast, "Harvard University has an annual operating budget of a little over \$1.3 billion, which means it could run the equivalent of five Vatican's every year."

— Fifth, he says, "It is not true that ambition and careerism are the dominant psychological traits of the men and women in the Holy See."

"All the Pope's Men" has a long chapter on the Vatican and the U.S. sexual abuse crisis. It contains some of the best insights into this incendiary problem.

Allen says that Rome considered the revulsion to the revelations of sexual abuse another reflection of the Puritan strain in the American character that can't accept that priests are fallible humans like themselves. But, as Allen notes, our deeper outrage was with the bishops.

Allen argues that the source of misunderstanding was the Vatican's love of

tradition (of not changing what seems to work) and the belief that bishops should stay in their positions in order to resolve the problems in their dioceses. In sharp contrast, Americans believe offending CEOs should relinquish their positions when corporate scandal breaks. Thus, Boston Catholics thought Cardinal Law should step down (and many thought he should be prosecuted as well).

Another problem was the Vatican's pace in dealing with the crisis. Americans may not like the rapid, ever-changing nature of our society, but we are accustomed to it. The Vatican views regional problems from a more global perspective and deliberately moves at a slower pace. Americans interpret that as indifference and stonewalling. To those who suffered at the hands of church predators, Allen's explanations will be cold comfort. Nonetheless, his contribution to the dialogue is important.

The final chapter on the Vatican and the war in Iraq is less compelling, largely because the pope and the diplomatic corps of the Vatican have maintained a firm and consistent opposition to our invasion and occupation of Iraq. They reject the idea of pre-emptive warfare as inconsistent with the "just-war" theory.

Allen's Vatican resembles a small and surprisingly well-managed company with the Holy Father as CEO. But most Catholics, I believe, see Rome as the heart of Christ's kingdom on earth. We are proud that our Holy Father can influence world events, that he writes exquisite prose, and that he has made more than 100 trips encompassing the globe.

But, more importantly, we see him as the supreme example of how to live a life in Christ. One photograph of John Paul II praying with his would-be assassin shows the character of this pope better than a dozen books giving us the insider's scoop.

Yearley writes on theater, literature and spirituality from Baltimore, where he studied theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 31, 2004

Oct. 31, 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 11:22 to 12:2
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 1:11 to 2:2
- 3) Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Scriptures leading into this week's Gospel speak of God's love of his creation — of all that he has created, despising nothing that he has created.

What a fitting background to the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, the tax collector. As we all know, tax collectors were despised in Jewish culture.

When his other efforts to catch a glimpse of Jesus over the heads or between the robes of the crowd fail, Zacchaeus finally climbs a tree.

The Lord spots Zacchaeus and tells him, "I mean to stay at your house today." Luke tells us that "everyone began to murmur. 'He has gone to a sinner's house as a guest.'"

Apparently Zacchaeus heard the murmuring and said to Jesus: "I give half my belongings, Lord, to the poor. If I

have defrauded anyone in the least, I pay him back fourfold."

"Jesus said to him: 'Today salvation has come to this house, for this is what it means to be a son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to search out and save what was lost.'"

Too often I find myself like the crowd, looking on the outside of people and assuming the worst about their behavior.

Sometimes I have found myself sharing some of these perceptions with a certain wise man who always has corrected me gently with observations about others who appeared to my eyes not to be redeemable. As a result of our conversations I've been humbled, brought to a realization that hope regarding others is the godly perspective, not condemnation. Gradually, I've gotten better about not jumping to conclusions about people. I'm still not perfect, but I have improved.

The wise man who has served as an example to me by speaking from the perspective of one who loves all God has created is our bishop.

Oh yes, and it should be noted that it was Zacchaeus' generosity toward the poor and justice in all his dealings that brought Jesus to praise him as a son of Abraham, not any of his religious practices or his lineage.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17 - OCTOBER 23

Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2, Luke 18:1-8; Monday (St. Luke), 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; Tuesday (Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and Companions), Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; Wednesday (St. Paul of the Cross), Ephesians 3:2-12, Luke 12:39-48; Thursday, Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; Friday, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; Saturday (St. John of Capistrano), Ephesians 4:7-16, Luke 13:1-9.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24 - OCTOBER 30

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14; Monday, Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; Tuesday, Ephesians 5:21-33, Luke 13:18-21; Wednesday, Ephesians 6:1-9, Luke 13:22-30; Thursday (Sts. Simon and Jude), Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; Friday, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; Saturday, Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

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'Vera Drake' is devastating viewing

Superb acting, cast round out abortionist film

BY HARRY FORBES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — An outstanding performance by Imelda Staunton and an ensemble cast, a well-crafted screenplay and direction by Mike Leigh elevate this tale of an unsophisticated woman who, unbeknownst to her husband and children, leads a double life as she performs abortions on young women in difficult circumstances.

Leigh's "Vera Drake" tackles the difficult abortion theme with objectivity. His heroine is a cheery, lower-middle-class housewife (Staunton) in postwar Britain, circa 1950, with a loving garage-mechanic husband and two grown children who live at home.

The middle-aged Vera, who works as a domestic, is guileless and simple, and thinks a cup of tea is the solution to all the world's ills.

But there's another side to her that soon becomes apparent: She assists young women who are "in the family way" by performing illegal abortions.

She tells the girl that in a day or two she'll feel some stomach pain, should go to the bathroom to relieve herself, and "it will all be over." The audience is left to imagine the rest.

Vera takes no money, but simply sees herself as assisting these young girls who feel they have no other recourse.

We also see Susan (Sally Hawkins), a more affluent young woman and the

daughter of one of Vera's employers, who is raped on a first date. Leigh does make a point of showing the callowness of many of these young men.

In contrast to Vera's clients, Susan goes to a regular doctor. But the relatively cold demeanor of the medical profession and the psychiatrist, who needs to know if there's insanity in her family before she can be certified for an abortion, stand in stark contrast to Vera's more human manner.

Eventually, the mother of one of the young ladies recognizes Vera. The daughter later becomes gravely ill, and the mother rushes her to the hospital, where the authorities insist on knowing how the girl's miscarriage was induced. The mother is bullied into revealing Vera's name.

In the film's most unbearably suspenseful moments, Vera's family is having a cozy celebration as the police close in. When they ask to speak to Vera, the family is flabbergasted about what the police possibly want with the quiet woman who leads such an exemplary life.

Staunton's heart-wrenching realization of what she's done, and the impact it will have on her family, is acting of the highest order. The camera stays on her face unflinchingly, and you feel every ounce of her pain.

Vera seems utterly incapable of thinking of what she's been doing as abortion; she's simply "helping girls out," she insists through her quiet tears.

'Shall We Dance?' Yes!



CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX

Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere star in a scene from the movie "Shall We Dance?", a delightful remake of 1996 Japanese film, now set in Chicago, about a married lawyer (Gere) in a rut. His life is transformed when he secretly enrolls in a ballroom dancing school after observing a beautiful and sad woman (Lopez) looking out of the school's window. Wonderful feeling of uplift in terms of following one's dreams, and strong affirmation of family. A few instances of rough and crass language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Leigh is careful not to make any of the authority figures villains.

Depressing as the subject matter is, the period atmosphere provides visual interest and there's always the joy of watching great acting. As this small, feisty, utterly ordinary woman, Staunton gives an indelible performance.

As for the abortion theme, the procedure isn't glorified in any way. The women involved are almost all desperate, and even though Vera's methods seem relatively benign, the women's fear and sorrow at what they are doing is achingly evident.

Leigh goes to pains not to make Vera a heroine. Nor, to my mind, does the film proselytize for abortion. The director leaves conclusions to the viewer, many of whom are likely to note that there is retribution on every level — personal and public — for Vera's well-intentioned, if

misguided, actions. While the medical "establishment" is depicted as unfeeling and hard, even a "do-gooder" like Vera can put a woman at risk.

Leigh's script has all the subtle nuances of "real" people reacting to a domestic crisis. Vera's son, Sid, tells her what she did was "wrong" and "dirty." "Little babies," he says to her in disgust.

No matter how much you'll share Sid's critical feeling, "Vera Drake" is devastating viewing.

Interestingly, Leigh dedicates the film to his parents: a doctor and a midwife.

Because of the abortion theme and one sexual situation, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Pope: Eucharist is needed 'light'

EUCHARIST, from page 1

vites us to consider the eucharistic mystery, not just in itself, but in relation to the problems of our time."

The pope's message called the Eucharist the "mystery of light."

"This light is needed by the heart of man, made heavy by sin, often disoriented and weary, tested by suffering of every kind," the pope said.

"This light is needed by a world in its difficult search for a seemingly distant peace, at the beginning of a millennium that is distressed and humiliated by violence, terrorism and war," he said.

More than 65,000 people packed Guadalajara's Jalisco Stadium for the midday address. The congress gathered clergy and lay people from 87 countries for a full week of prayer and discussion aimed at bolstering devotion to the Eucharist worldwide.

One of those was Maria Modelewska, 60, who traveled alone to Guadalajara from Chicago to attend the congress after crediting the Eucharist with saving her from alcoholism.

"I was losing my faith and I was drinking, but I turned to devotion of the Eucharist and found strength," said Modelewska, who now regularly participates in all-night eucharistic devotion.

The pope asked the Christian community to seek a deeper understanding of the Eucharist during Mass and in moments of adoration. This understanding should give rise to a sense of communion and a sense of mission, as well as a greater commitment to fraternity and service to the weakest, he said.

The pope closed his speech with the phrase, "Stay with us, Lord. Stay with us."

The phrase is also the title of the pope's recent 31-page letter offering spiritual guidelines for the "Year of the Eucharist," which runs from Oct. 17 to Oct. 29, 2005, the end of a monthlong Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist.

"Stay With Us, Lord" urges local churches to promote respectful liturgies, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a better understanding of Christ's "real presence" in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist, the pope said, furnishes Christians with spiritual energy and a plan for living. It is the ideal way for

the faithful to identify with Christ's message and his saving sacrifice, which should in turn have an impact on peace and justice issues in the wider society, he said.

"The lacerated image of this world, which has begun the new millennium with the specter of terrorism and the tragedy of war, calls on Christians more than ever to live the Eucharist as a great school of peace," he said.

This will help form men and women as architects of dialogue and communion, at every level of social and political life, he said.

The Eucharist should also bring Catholics closer to the world's poor because it manifests Christ's "extreme form of love" — one that replaced domination with service as the governing principle in human affairs, he said.

The pope urged local communities to adopt concrete expressions of solidarity and charity for the poor during the eucharistic year.

He told Catholics that the authenticity of eucharistic celebrations will be demonstrated largely by the love shown to others and by the care given to the needy.

The pope touched on points from his encyclical on the Eucharist last year, including the need to understand the Eucharist not simply as a shared meal or a symbol, but as a real encounter with Christ.

He urged obedience of liturgical norms, including those on reception of Communion, and suggested that every local parish use the eucharistic year to study in depth the church's rules on proper liturgy. The respect shown the Eucharist as the real presence of Christ should be evidenced in such things as tone of voice, gestures and moments of silence during the Mass or eucharistic adoration, he said.

The pope urged Christians to publicly witness the faith and the presence of God during the eucharistic year — for example, in eucharistic processions.

Contributing to this story was John Thavis at the Vatican.

Note to Readers

See David Hains' column on the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Ala.

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Where Do the Candidates Stand on Abortion?

U.S. Presidency

George W. Bush

John Kerry

Partial-Birth Abortion

George W. Bush promoted and signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act into law.

John Kerry voted against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act six times.

The partial-birth abortion procedure -- used from the fifth month on -- involves pulling a living baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, puncturing the skull, and suctioning out the brain. The great majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy babies and healthy mothers, for entirely non-medical reasons.

Abortion on Demand

George W. Bush opposes the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand, and he supports legal protection for unborn children.

John Kerry supports the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand -- even as a method of birth control.

Record on Life

George W. Bush has repeatedly supported legislation which would protect unborn children and people with disabilities.

George W. Bush signed "Laci and Conner's Law," which recognizes unborn children as victims when they are killed or injured in violent federal crimes.

George W. Bush supported legislation to prevent minor daughters from being taken across state lines for secret abortions in order to avoid parental notice laws.

John Kerry, during his 20 years in the Senate, voted 79 times to support abortion.

John Kerry voted against "Laci and Conner's Law," which recognizes unborn children as victims when they are killed or injured in violent federal crimes.

John Kerry voted against notifying a parent before performing an abortion on a minor.

Supreme Court Appointments

George W. Bush stated that he will appoint Supreme Court justices who share his conservative philosophy and who will strictly interpret the Constitution according to its text. (The text of the Constitution contains no right to abortion).

John Kerry has stated that if elected president he would only appoint Supreme Court justices who support the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand. He declared, "...I will support only pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court. Some may call this a litmus test..."

U.S. Senate

Richard Burr

Erskine Bowles

Abortion on Demand

Richard Burr co-sponsored the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act and has consistently voted against partial-birth abortion.

Richard Burr is opposed to abortion on demand and supports legal protection for unborn children.

Erskine Bowles supports the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand -- even as a method of birth control.

Record on Life

Richard Burr has co-sponsored many pro-life bills in Congress, including a bill that would prevent minor daughters from being taken across state lines for secret abortions without parental notice or consent.

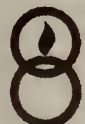
As President Clinton's Chief of Staff, **Erskine Bowles** lobbied Congress AGAINST legislation that would have prevented minor girls from being taken across state lines for secret abortions without parental notice or consent.

Erskine Bowles received \$10,000 in campaign contributions from the pro-abortion group NARAL.

Supreme Court Appointments

Richard Burr will support President Bush's judicial nominees.

Erskine Bowles will not support justices for the Supreme Court who do not support a "right" to abortion.



NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE 512 10th Street NW Washington, DC 20004 www.nrlc.org

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Moral clarity in an election year

Every election year places added responsibilities and burdens upon us as faithful Catholic citizens. If we are to participate in the world, it is necessary to become acquainted with the pressing issues of the day as well as the candidates who are seeking public office.

We are encouraged by the Catholic Church to participate willingly, to the extent possible, in worldly affairs. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that "by reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will..." (No. 898).

Likewise, the Church teaches that "submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country..." (No. 2240). In other words, we have a privilege, right and obligation to express our faith by our participation in the electoral process.

As such, we will take a look at the complex issues to inform our consciences on Election Day. Indeed, our Catholic faith can provide us with guidance as we sift through the moral considerations of electing officials to public service. We could all benefit from a prayerful and reasonable consideration of the task that lies ahead in electing our representatives to office.

Before we evaluate issues, candidates and positions, we must first clarify the role of the conscience. Contrary to popular understanding, one's conscience cannot determine right and wrong. Many people today mistakenly think that "following their conscience" means they create the moral laws and rules by which to live, as if their conscience were akin to the legislative branch of government.

But the conscience cannot create law. On the contrary, the function of the conscience (built into our human nature by God) is merely to judge whether our particular actions are in conformity with the truth, whether our actions are in accord with God's law or natural law (No. 1776-1785). As such, the conscience resembles the judicial branch of government, rather than the legislative branch. It is only capable of applying already existing law, revealed by God or found in nature itself, to specific situations.

What criteria must we use to make our voting decisions? We are encouraged not to base a vote on a particular party affiliation or our earlier voting habits since many candidates, especially today, do not establish their agenda on traditional party positions and expectations. We are also encouraged not to base a vote on a particular candidate's appearance, personality or the opinion of the media.

And we are also encouraged not to vote for candidates who merely claim to

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



be Catholic, since many politicians who claim to practice the Catholic faith reject basic Catholic moral teaching, which is, in fact, a great sign of a lack of a candidate's integrity.

We are encouraged, therefore, to base our vote on candidates who seek to promote political agenda that are in accord with God's revelation and natural law, especially concerning the human person. And so, particularly in an election year, we ought to pay specific attention to non-negotiable issues relating to the human person.

These issues are the most significant because they treat issues of life and death and the very stability of the family and society. They are non-negotiable because each of the issues concerns actions that are always morally wrong, morally illicit and must never be promoted by law.

Abortion

According to natural reason, abortion is always intrinsically evil and is never to be tolerated. This truth is also confirmed by divine revelation and, therefore, taught by the Church without compromise. In fact, the Church has consistently taught this truth ever since the first century and will never change her teaching on this evil practice (see CCC No. 2271).

The catechism states: "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person — among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life" (No. 2270).

And although our modern, secular society and culture uses euphemistic language to conceal the truth — such as the language of "women's rights," health of the mother, population control, the termination of pregnancy, "pro-choice," even the word "abortion" — the harsh truth is that those who promote such social and political programs are promoting the killing — the slaughter and holocaust — of thousands of innocent babies each day.

Each day more than 4,000 human beings — innocent children — are put to death legally by abortions. Imagine the loss of life greater than the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001 — each day. That is the brutal reality that penetrates the society and culture in which we live.

As faithful Catholic citizens, we have a very serious obligation to speak out against this evil by not promoting and encouraging it with our vote. To be Catholic is to be pro-life; one cannot be pro-abortion and claim to be a Catholic in good standing.

Euthanasia

Closely related to abortion is euthanasia, which usually involves the direct killing of a handicapped, sick or dying person. Like abortion, euthanasia is always morally wrong, morally illicit and must never be promoted or made licit by law.

In the case of abortion, age does not determine personhood. Likewise, old age does not forfeit the rights and dignities afforded to human persons. Moreover, sickness, disease or other handicaps and impairments, including imminent death, do not render human beings non-persons.

It is never permissible to kill oneself (suicide) or assist in another's death (homicide) as in cases of euthanasia, but it is permissible to allow the effects of a disease or illness to run their course if the medical procedure or treatment is overly burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome (Cf. CCC No. 2278).

As in the cases of abortion, there has been much confusion and euphemistic language employed to obscure the dehumanizing reality of euthanasia. Many who seek its justification and legal acceptance speak of euthanasia as an act of "compassion." However, this is nothing more than a diabolical reversal of the truth.

The word "compassion" comes from two Latin words meaning "to suffer with." Oftentimes the desire to commit an act of or comply with euthanasia comes from the refusal "to suffer with" the patient. Far from being an act of "compassion," euthanasia is an act that rejects compassion; it is an act that makes "suffering with" a loved one impossible.

Stem cells, cloning

Akin to abortion and euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research redefines the human person in order to justify the murder of persons for scientific and medical advancements. The problem: extracting the embryonic stem cells from a living human embryo kills the embryo, thus murdering the human person. The solution: legitimate and highly effective procedures already exist for obtaining stem cells that do not require killing human beings.

It is well documented that stem cells from the bone marrow, placenta or umbilical cord of live births are already in use in treating leukemia and show promise for possible results in treating Parkinson's and other diseases.

In the same manner that the Church defends the dignity and legal rights of the human embryo, it also condemns human cloning: "Certain attempts to influence chromosomal or genetic inheritance are not therapeutic but are aimed at producing human beings selected according to sex or other predetermined qualities. Such manipulations are contrary to the personal dignity of the human being and his integrity and identity which are unique and unrepeatable" (CCC No. 2275).

Non-marital means of engendering human life change its generation from an act of procreation to one of reproduction, treating the child as if he or she were a

product of a scientific experiment. In other words, in the generation of a child in the marital act, the child is "begotten, not made"; whereas in the case of human cloning, the child is made, produced, and not begotten.

Homosexual 'marriage'

Another evil threatening our society's stability is homosexual "marriage." While the Church does not condemn those struggling with homosexuality and, in fact, advocates that such persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity," nonetheless, the inclination towards persons of the same sex is "objectively disordered" (CCC No. 2358).

Further, the law of human nature, sacred Scripture and the constant tradition of the Church all affirm the truth that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered" (CCC No. 2357). Therefore, while the Church respects the dignity of persons, she also encourages them to turn away from sinful acts, live chastely and seek the freedom of Christian perfection as she encourages all who are bound by various spiritual or psychological disorders.

War, capital punishment

There may be a lingering question concerning two serious social issues that have not thus been considered: What about the issues of war and capital punishment? Since these both concern the protection of the common good, should they not also be treated among the previous list of non-negotiable moral evils? No.

While war and capital punishment are concerned about the protection of the common good, one of the principal duties of the state, they are not intrinsically evil, as in the case of abortion, and they both can be justified under certain criteria. The Church teaches that "as long as the danger of war persists... governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed" (#2308). "The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good" (No. 2309).

Therefore, the Church recognizes that elected officials in each state have the moral responsibility of protecting its citizens, without excluding the possibility of war as a legitimate means of defense.

Similarly, the Church recognizes and teaches that the state, the legitimate public authority, "has the right and the duty to inflict punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense" (No. 2366). And "...the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty..." (No. 2367).

Therefore, in both war and capital punishment, the Church upholds the state's obligation and responsibility to protect the common good of its citizens. Neither is preferable. However, there is a fundamental difference between those acts that are intrinsically evil and never morally licit, such as abortion, and those acts that are justified under certain circumstances, such as capital punishment.

As faithful Catholic citizens, we have the opportunity and the obligation to elect to public office candidates who will ensure justice and social stability for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable and those unable to speak on their own behalf.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Alabama — sweet home for the Eucharist

Hidden shrine only a few states away

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — In this “Year of the Eucharist,” you can contemplate the meaning of the Blessed Sacrament anytime you are in its presence at Mass, or you can visit a shrine — a trip that could change your life.

When you think of the shrines of the Catholic faith, such as Fatima, Portugal or Lourdes, France come to mind. But to witness the awe-inspiring presence of God, you need not travel across the Atlantic but to Hanceville, Ala. — four hundred or so miles from Charlotte.

Hanceville, with a population of 2,900, is not an easy place to reach. The narrow, two-lane roads leading to the town twist through the foothills of northern Alabama. Once you arrive in town, you still have about 10 miles to go to the shrine and the roads actually get a little worse.

But what you find at the end of County Road 548 can only be described as incredible. The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery is beautifully situated on 395 acres of gently rolling hills.

The location of the shrine makes no practical sense. The monastery sits on what used to be a soybean farm in a region that is a stronghold for the Baptist faith. The buildings are architectural gems in a county that is known for its chicken houses. The appointments inside the church are on a scale that is suited to the Vatican, not rural Alabama. But there it is.

The monastery is operated by the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. The driving force behind the construction that began in 1995 was Mother Mary Angelica, the Irondale, Ala., nun who started the Eternal World Television Network (EWTN).

Dirt under the fingernails

Outdoor work restores spirit within

Some time ago when I wasn't feeling myself, I took a walk to sort things out. Nothing was in balance. I was lightheaded, and my thoughts were running wild.

As I walked, a Benedictine motto came to me: “Ora et labora,” meaning that prayer and good hard work go together. I recalled my comradeship with Benedictines and how one old monk would tell his class every so often: “Enough of getting ideas into your head. Get out in the fields, and get some dirt under your fingernails.”

Remembering this, I stopped my current activities and began to work outside, cutting grass, pruning trees and pulling weeds. At the end of each day I was covered with dirt from head to foot. My arms and hands ached, and my golf game suffered terribly because of it. But my head cleared up, and my nerves recovered. I felt like a million dollars.

What is it in manual labor that so often constitutes wholesome therapy?

When we drop everything and commit to manual labor as a way of recovering

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



During a visit to South America, Mother Angelica received a vision from the Lord instructing her to build the shrine. According to a spokesperson, the necessary funds were donated by five families who requested anonymity and who stipulated that the costs of the shrine not be made public.

No expense seems to have been spared in the construction of the church that was built to resemble the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy. A large plaza that can hold thousands of people sits in front of the church. Inside, marble from Italy and Yugoslavia was used on the floor, columns and altar.

A gold drape and intricate cedar wood work covered in gold leaf adorn the reredos that is the area behind the altar. The stained-glass windows are from Germany and the hand-carved cedar confessionals and pews are from Spain.

But the real opulence is reserved for the Blessed Sacrament, which is displayed high above the altar in an eight-and-a-half-foot-tall monstrance encrusted with diamonds, rubies and other precious stones. The effect of all of this, from the setting in the middle of nowhere, to the chanting of the nuns in perpetual adoration, is breathtaking awe.

Eugenie Breaux, the director of pilgrimages and spokesperson for the shrine, said many visitors have the same reaction.

“They find a peace here that they never imagined they could have,” said Breaux.

The presence of the Lord and the peace it brings is apparently what draws visitors to the shrine. Except for mentions on EWTN programming and word of mouth, the shrine does not advertise. No admission is charged, although donations are accepted.

“The Lord inspires people to give and we always have what we need,” said Breaux.

Although visitors are welcome, the shrine should not be mistaken for a tourist attraction. No pictures are allowed in the church. Shorts, miniskirts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted inside. The shrine does provide clothing for those who show up underdressed, which Breaux says happens often in the steamy summer months.

In a “if you build it they will come” leap of faith, Mother Angelica’s vision instructed her to build a facility that could hold 30,000 people. Currently, between 500 and 1,000 people visit the shrine each day. Breaux says the numbers are growing.

A strange location with little advertising, it seems that the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament is defying all of the rules for a successful enterprise. Visit it one time and you will realize that none of that matters. Like the Eucharist it adores, the shrine is here forever.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottedioicese.org.

Pope warns against risks of accumulating material riches

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II warned Catholics against the dangers of accumulating material riches and believing that wealth and power in life can somehow save one from death.

In a talk inspired by Psalm 49, the pope said that a man intent on gathering possessions risks becoming a “slave to avidity.”

Following an outdoor audience in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 20, the pope greeted pilgrims in several languages, although priests read translated summaries of the talk, by now a usual practice at the audiences.

The pope used strong words to condemn the quest for riches.

“The rich man, clinging to his immense fortune, is convinced that he can dominate even death, the way he has dominated everything and everybody with money,” he said.

But “a profound obtuseness seizes man when he becomes a slave to avidity,” he said in a departure from his prepared text. “Great wealth is not an advantage. Indeed, it can become a danger.”

The psalm invites people to reflect on “the malice of those who rush to accumulate material wealth,” the pope’s message said.

The psalmist, he said, uses financial terms to admonish that “no man can buy his own ransom or pay a price for his life.”

The first part of the psalm describes a just man who must face “evil days” because “my wicked ensnarers ring me round.” The pope emphasized the just man’s conclusion that man, “for all his splendor, if he have not prudence, resembles the beasts that perish.”

No matter how much a rich man is willing to pay to avoid death, he said, “his final destiny is inexorable.” He, “like all men and women, rich or poor, wise or foolish, must go to the tomb, just as other powerful men did, and will have to leave on this earth all that much-loved gold, all those idolized possessions,” he said.

It is a theme “explored by all the cultures and all the spiritualities,” the pope wrote, adding that Jesus concludes that even though one lives in abundance, “his life doesn’t depend on his possessions.”

At the conclusion of the audience, the pope lingered for more than 30 minutes to bless babies, newlyweds, clergy, religious groups and handicapped people in wheelchairs, with a sign of the cross or pressing of the hand for all.

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



clipper or exercising a broom. If we are weeding, we get down on our knees and literally grub in the dirt.

But there is more to outdoor work than exercise. Working on the lawn can touch off the artistic in us as we endeavor to make it beautiful. It takes a good eye to prune bushes. Most satisfying of all is to step back after this is done and admire the beauty of our work. And for the next few days we may well continue to experience a feeling of satisfaction each time we pass our work. If we have planted something, seeing it grows adds to the joy.

One last thing deserves a mention here: sweat. Not the sweat of anxiety, but the sweat of hard, physical work. This type of sweat is often at the root of true relaxation.

Ah yes, the Benedictines had it right: “Ora et labora.”

our senses, we are on our way to doing just that. We have accepted the fact that we are uptight; we’ve moved into action to correct the situation.

Most of the time when we’re uptight, we try to work through it while staying in the same situation — doing the same things. We don’t change locations or environments. Dropping everything and working with the soil is a resolute move, one that changes the “scenery” for us.

When we work outdoors, we also ventilate our system. So many of our buildings and homes are sealed. We live in recycled air. When we go outside, we often work in fresher air. I say “often” because polluted areas are not always that fresh.

Also, changing from formal to informal clothing is rather freeing. Why? Because it says to us that we are deliberately leaving our world of pressing concerns for awhile in order to become refreshed, renewed.

Outdoor work relies upon our hands — pushing a lawnmower, using a hedge

St. Peter Church stands as historical part of Catholicism in Charlotte

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Jesuit Father Joseph Sobierajski



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Peter Church in Charlotte stands as a testament to the faith and perseverance of North Carolina Catholics.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church is not only one of the oldest Catholic churches in Charlotte, it is also one of the oldest churches of any denomination still standing in the city.

The growth of the Catholic Church in Charlotte can be traced to the early 19th century. Father Joseph Stokes, a missionary priest from Savannah, began visits to the area around 1824. Scarcely 100 Catholics lived between Hot Springs, N.C., and Columbia, S.C.

A more permanent Catholic presence began in 1851 when Father Jeremiah J. O'Connell was appointed to the mission territory. He laid the cornerstone of the first church building on March 25, 1851.

Built in what was then the extreme southern limit of the city, both the land and structure cost about \$1,000. Much of the money was donated by non-Catholics impressed with Father O'Connell's preaching.

At the dedication of St. Peter Church in 1852, Bishop Ignatius Reynolds of Charleston spoke of the "zeal and piety of the few Catholics and the liberality of separated friends" in the building of the church.

After the Civil War, an explosion at a nearby munitions factory damaged the church's structure. Parishioners began raising money for a new church in 1869.

One of the benefactors, Dr. Dennis O'Donoghue, came to town to run the new weather bureau in 1878. One of the church's stained glass windows is dedicated to him.

In 1888, St. Mary's Seminary, a day and boarding school, was established on the church's property but discontinued operation in 1892 when Sacred Heart Academy in Belmont was

founded. That same year, Benedictine monks from Belmont Abbey began their service to St. Peter Church. The cornerstone of the present church building was laid by Benedictine Bishop Leo Haid Sept. 3, 1893. Its gothic style, including tin-paneled ceiling, is representative of the late-Victorian architecture popular at the time.

One of the church's many benefactors was St. Katherine Drexel (1858-1955). The founder of an order of sisters whose mission was outreach to blacks made her gift contingent upon a promise to reserve church pews for those parishioners.

In 1906, the old parish house behind the church became the first Mercy Hospital with 25 beds, where it remained until 1915 when the hospital relocated to Vail Avenue. The present parish house was built in 1922 as a convent.

St. Patrick Cathedral began as a mission of St. Peter Church in the mid-1930s and was consecrated by then-

Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh in 1939. It was designated as the cathedral church for the newly formed Diocese of Charlotte by Pope Paul VI in 1972.

The Benedictine priests remained with St. Peter Church until 1960, when priests of the Raleigh, and later, the Charlotte dioceses assumed pastoral responsibilities.

In 1986, Jesuit priests of the Maryland Province assumed the pastorate of St. Peter Church, and they continue in that role to the present day.

St. Peter is a tithing parish with a strong commitment to the poor of the community. Parish programs include outreach work in El Salvador and Haiti, Social Justice committee, RAIN Teams, Room in the Inn, Loaves and Fishes, Uptown Urban Ministry and Habitat for Humanity.

The Garden of Eaten, which sells food prior to Carolina Panthers home football games, has raised more than \$50,000 in five years to fund a variety of projects for the poor.

St. Peter Church was rededicated in 1989 after a renovation and restoration, and the completion of a fresco by N.C. artist Ben Long that graced the entire rear wall of the church. The triptych depicted the Agony in the Garden, the Resurrection and Pentecost.

On Feb. 20, 2002, for reasons that are still unknown, one third of the fresco fell, destroying the image of the resurrected Christ. The remaining portion was removed from the wall. Eighteen pieces were salvaged and mounted to concrete backboards. Eventually, they will be put on display in various parts of the church's campus.

Plans are currently underway to select an artist to create a new piece of artwork to grace the church. Jesuit Father Joseph Sobierajski, pastor, said they hope to have a decision made by April 2005. By October 2005, plans are to have the new artwork installed and a renovation of the church's interior complete.

With the completion of the Green Park adjacent to the church, the former parking lot is being transformed into a meditation garden with a columbarium.

A place of quiet beauty in the heart of bustling uptown Charlotte, St. Peter Church is an inviting refuge for prayer and meditation, as well as a source of outreach to many of the city's marginalized communities.

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issue.

OCTOBER 29, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 5

Bishops to consider liturgical texts for Hispanic Catholic rituals

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Because of the growing Hispanic Catholic population, the U.S. bishops will be asked at their upcoming fall meeting to approve Spanish-language liturgical texts that would formally incorporate important Latin American rituals into U.S. church services.

These include a blessing ceremony for the "quinceanera," a popular celebration among Hispanics that takes place when a girl is 15 to mark her passage from childhood to adolescence.

Also up for approval at the

Nov. 15-18 bishops' general meeting are additions to the marriage rite incorporating traditions popular mostly in Mexico, Central America and Puerto Rico.

These marriage traditions include:

— The exchange of "arras," special coins symbolizing the couple's pledge to be good stewards in the new household.

— The placing of the "lazo," a double-looped rope or large rosary or garland, over the bride and groom symbolizing the unity of the marriage.

— The "velacion," in

See RITUALS, page 9

LOVE ETERNAL



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above, anniversary couples share kisses during the annual diocesan wedding anniversary Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Oct. 24. Below, an anniversary couple accepts two red roses after the Mass.

Anniversary couples celebrate sacrament of marriage

*Bishop Jugis says
Christ's love helps
marriages to endure*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — After 50 years of marriage, Tony and Marie Aceti of St. Gabriel Church said they can finish each other's sentences.

"We'd do it all over again," said Marie Aceti about their first decades of matrimony.

The Acetis were one of 156

couples invited to renew their matrimonial vows during the annual diocesan wedding anniversary celebration at St. Gabriel Church Oct. 24.

Hailing from all around the Diocese of Charlotte, 57 couples celebrated 50 years and 98 couples celebrated 25 years of marriage this year; one couple, John and Mildred Vaillancourt of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa, celebrated 70 years of marriage.

"I am honored to be in the

See MARRIAGE, page 7



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Red Hat Society members from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte demonstrate chair exercises during the Senior Fall Day of Reflection at St. Mark Church Oct. 21.

Seniors gather for spiritual, physical well-being

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Although there is "snow on the roof," there is still "a fire within the hearth" — and heart — of

every senior Catholic, Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast told 125 seniors who gathered for the annual Senior Fall Day of

See SENIORS, page 8

Committed to the faith

RCIA Commission supports
diocesan initiation efforts

Perspectives

Laughing at wedding-day
mishaps; Taking care of the
poor

Parish Profile

St. Bernadette Church stands
as tranquil house in
mountain's shadow

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

OUTFITTING OUTREACH



CNS PHOTO BY ERIC SUCAR, CATHOLIC COURIER

Barbara and Charles Avino of Auburn, N.Y., help Charles Thermindor, center, find a pair of shoes at Our Lady of the Lake Church in King Ferry during a distribution of supplies to area migrant farmworkers.

Parish outreach helps farmworkers with everyday needs

KING FERRY, N.Y. (CNS) — The migrant camp in King Ferry has been a part of Eddy Celamy's life for the past 26 years. He stays at the camp each year when he and other migrant farmworkers come to harvest sweet corn for Turek Farms.

Like many farmworkers, Celamy, 49, moves from place to place following the harvests. The work is hard and the nature of his job makes it difficult for him to keep in touch with his family in Haiti, but he doesn't complain.

"It's not normal, but that's life," Celamy said. "I think if I was in Haiti, I'd be dead. I'm blessed. Over there, every day when you wake up you hear (that) many people died for nothing. I'm just working hard to eat, and I thank God I'm still alive."

Each year Celamy and his fellow farmworkers in King Ferry are the beneficiaries of the Migrant Farmworker Project, an annual service project of the Good Shepherd Catholic Community in southern Cayuga County.

Volunteers provide farmworkers with everyday items they lack, including clothing, and lead education sessions for them on such issues as health care. Each August they also hold a prayer service and a picnic to welcome the workers to the area.

The project began more than a decade ago, said its coordinator, Debbie Patrick.

Parishioners were looking for a way to become involved in mission work when they realized there was a migrant camp nearby, giving Catholics a way to do mission work practically in their own

back yards.

"From that point on, we made an effort to serve them," Patrick said.

Patrick and other Good Shepherd parishioners began collecting nonperishable food, health and beauty supplies, used household items and clothing, which they then distributed to the farmworkers to help make their stay at the camp more comfortable.

The program has grown over the years, with parishes, businesses and organizations from Cayuga and two other counties becoming involved.

This year the program was expanded to include an educational component, which included an informational workshop designed to help the farmworkers make informed choices about over-the-counter medications.

The efforts of Patrick and other volunteers don't go unnoticed by the farmworkers, who include Haitians, African-Americans and Hispanics, as well as Caucasians from Appalachia. Celamy said he feels blessed to know that so many different people have come together to make life better for him.

Father Donald Curtiss, pastor of Good Shepherd, said the Migrant Farmworker Project helps the workers know that local residents appreciate what they do and helps the community at large become aware of their needs and their humanity.

"They're human beings like us. ... They still have that dignity," he said. "They're not just workers, they're husbands and wives. They work very hard outdoors and in the sun, in the weather, many hours a day."

Cardinal Schonborn stresses Eucharist's significance through child's story

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Austrian Cardinal Cristoph Schonborn of Vienna played an indispensable role in editing the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," but in a New Orleans lecture he used a child's story rather than a lofty theological text to explain the mystery and power of the Eucharist.

In a world where people often rush through sacred moments, Catholics could learn a lot from Claire, a 4-year-old girl in the Vienna Archdiocese, Cardinal Schonborn said in his Oct. 8 talk on "The Church Living From the Eucharist" at Notre Dame Seminary.

"Claire is a little girl in a family of six children who prays every day personally for me," the cardinal told about 500 people at the Archbishop

Schulte Auditorium.

"When her mother comes back from Communion, she sits down and Claire puts her head on her mother's breast and says, 'Mom, Jesus is now within you. I want to be close to him,'" said the cardinal. "Her mother said to the parish priest, 'I think Claire is ready for early Communion.'"

The cardinal noted that the parish priest asked Claire if she wanted Jesus to come to her in the Eucharist, and her response was: "No, Jesus wants to come to me."

Cardinal Schonborn, president of the Austrian bishops' conference, remarked with a smile, "Yes, Claire is ready to receive Communion."

The story illustrates the reverence all Catholics should have for the Eucharist, he said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOVA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — Solomon House and the Alzheimer's Association will sponsor a free informative Lunch and Learn panel discussion about *Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia* at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Nov. 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Please register ahead (so we can prepare for the lunch) with Teresa Hoover at (704) 532-7390 or Cyndi Jo Brady at (704) 875-0677. Come to learn and ask questions of the panel while enjoying lunch!

ROCK HILL — *Christian Coffeehouse* will present "Redeemed," a 10-member Christian contemporary band performing an eclectic mix of rock, jazz, blues and gospel sounds, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Anne Church, 1694 Bird St. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The *Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick* demonstrates the presence of Jesus as healer and comforter. The sacrament is offered the first Saturday of each month at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., during the 9 a.m. Mass.

CHARLOTTE — Would you like to learn more about your Catholic faith, but are unable to attend a class every week? *Catholic Update*

meets Mondays, 5-6:15 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the New Life Center Room 102 of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a drop-in class that will cover a new topic of interest each week. Each participant will receive a Catholic Update from St. Anthony Messenger Press to keep. Pre-registration is not necessary — just drop in! Childcare is available at these sessions by reservation by calling (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for caregivers of a family member with memory loss meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is forming a group at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Elizabeth Ministry offers confidential, one-to-one contact, information, comfort and healing for women who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death. Please call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at (704) 907-9205.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — All middle and high school

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican's social catechism touches on war, working women, environment

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican's "social catechism" includes an official, systematic explanation of how the Catholic Church applies Christian principles to social questions, including war, democracy, working women and the environment.

The "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church," released Oct. 25 runs to almost 500 pages. Topics include ecology, the common good, human rights, family, work, women in society, the economy, the international community and indigenous peoples.

The book has three main sections: a presentation of the theological and anthropological underpinnings of the church's social teaching; an examination of basic themes and concrete social issues; and the pastoral and practical consequences of Catholic social teaching, especially for lay people and Catholics working in politics, busi-

ness and the economy.

While the compendium supports the right of a nation to defend itself from attack, it also says a "preventive war, unleashed without evident proof that an act of aggression is about to be launched, raises serious moral and juridical questions."

The statement reflects questions and criticism raised by Pope John Paul II and Vatican officials over U.S. President George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq.

Pope John Paul asked the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace to write the compendium, which frequently has been referred to as a catechism of Catholic social teaching.

In a 1999 meeting with council members, the pope said the "compendium or approved synthesis of church social doctrine" would help Catholics learn what the church teaches on social issues and see how important the teaching is.

once a week, Oct. 17-Nov. 21, to share faith, find meaning, deepen relationships, pray, learn from one another and support each other in the struggle to live faith in all aspects of life. For more information, call Michael Kauffman at (828) 835-3310 or e-mail mskuffman@webworkz.com.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo will present "Peaceful Prayer in a Busy Season" Nov. 10, 17 and 24 at 7 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. This is an opportunity for quiet prayer time to escape the mad rush in our lives. For additional information, contact Our Lady of Mercy Church at (336) 722-7001.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the DeSales House behind the church. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and Benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 30 — 5:30 p.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cherokee

Oct. 31 — 4 p.m.
Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotion
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

Nov. 4 — 7 p.m. Mass
Parish Feast Day
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton

Nov. 6 — 1:30 p.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

Vatican's U.N. nuncio urges world to do more to help Africa

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, called Oct. 19 for the international community to increase its efforts on behalf of Africa.

He said the international community, and especially its more powerful members, had a duty "of redressing the economic imbalances that penalize Africa and of helping it to resolve its regional and national conflicts."

The reasons for such conflicts are found not only in the African countries and their factions, but also "beyond Africa and its interests," he said.

Speaking at U.N. headquarters in New York, Archbishop Migliore delivered his statement to a session of the General Assembly devoted to review of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, commonly known as NEPAD.

This is a program instituted by the African Union to express a commitment by African governments to take more responsibility for the development of their own societies.

Archbishop Migliore said that Africa was "doing more and more" in regard to preventing conflicts and building peace despite "the many adversities it faces."

He also commended the African

peer-review mechanism, a self-monitoring process established to further the realization of goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Continuing the Vatican's long-standing campaign for canceling the debt of poor countries, the nuncio said it was regrettable that recent meetings of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and group of industrialized countries known as the Group of Seven had "failed to agree on the total cancellation of debt of the 27 poorest countries."

The G-7 is made up of the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Japan, Italy and Canada.

"The realization of economic policies suitable for Africa, for the well-being of urban and rural families alike and for the preservation of African values is surely an urgent international obligation," Archbishop Migliore said.

He said much remained to be done to rebuild trust among the ethnic groups in the various African countries, but that "African solutions to African problems have started to emerge."

"The promotion of greater cooperation among religions in Africa could also be a decisive factor in peace-building and peacekeeping," he added.

Essence of incense



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Women carry incense as they follow a procession of Peru's most revered Catholic religious icon, Lord of the Miracles, through central Lima Oct. 18. Each year thousands of Catholics in Lima commemorate the image's survival in a devastating 17th-century earthquake.

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Lest we forget



COURTESY PHOTO BY LUISE LEONARD

Members of the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Council 2829 flank a memorial to the unborn during its dedication ceremony at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Oct. 3. The Knights sponsored the memorial, which reads, "In loving memory of God's unborn children."

Tribute and testament



COURTESY PHOTO BY DICK McDONALD

A display of crosses stands as a memorial to the unborn on the lawn of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory throughout October, Respect Life Month. The annual display was begun by Knights of Columbus Council 6451 with the support of the parish's pastors. Approximately 4,000 abortions occur each day in the United States.

'Building the Kingdom of God'



COURTESY PHOTO BY SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH GERI ROGERS

Kindergarten students from Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem join Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church, at the building site of the new church in October. The students' hard hats read "Building the Kingdom of God."

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—James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

COMMITTED TO THE FAITH

RCIA Commission supports diocesan initiation efforts

Initiation benefits whole church, say members

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Church continues to grow in part due to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process that initiates new members to full communion through the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist.

The RCIA in the Diocese of Charlotte would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of the diocesan RCIA Commission.

"What we do is provide resources and ongoing formation to parish ministers serving in the RCIA," said Linda Licata, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro and commission chairperson.

"We also plan and oversee the diocesan rites of election, which were not offered on the diocesan level until the commission was formed (in 1997)," she said.

"We're a support system," said Capuchin Franciscan Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte and commission member.

"We're there as support for the diocese to any parishes who need us," said Father Schratz. "We help people in the parishes grow in the process, to help them understand what the process is, as well as assist the bishop and priests."

"Our job is to expose as much information as possible," he added.

The seven-member RCIA Commission held three in-service sessions for parish delegates in the winter of 2003 to prepare for the various rites of election at churches throughout the diocese this April. Planning has already begun for 2005.

The commission members are not paid; they receive no reimbursements for their work or travels, said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan faith formation office.

"Each of the commission members has a passion for initiation ministry and for the liturgy," said Licata. "It's our passion and love of the church that helps us to do this work, and not see it as work but as a ministry."

Both Licata and Father Schratz were among the first to join the commission at its inception. Licata, who has been involved with formation ministry for almost 25 years, is a team member for the North American Forum of the Catechumenate, which started as a grassroots organization in 1987 for persons interested in learning about the initiation process.

"I've been involved with the RCIA since 1986," said Father Schratz. "It's a joy sharing the faith with people and watching their faith grow."

The RCIA is important, he said, because many people today are searching for answers.

"If the RCIA is done properly, we can share the gift of our faith and pass it on," said Father Schratz, who believes in emphasizing the "faith experience" as well as academics in the RCIA.



COURTESY PHOTO

The diocesan RCIA Commission members are (from left) Capuchin Franciscan Father Martin Schratz, Susanna Weatherholt, Pat Millar, Dr. Cris Villapando (seated), Linda Licata, Father Jose Antonio Juya and Carlos Castaneda.

"It's our passion and love of the church that helps us to do this work, and not see it as work but as a ministry."

"If it's done as a community, you can see, witness and explore what the faith is all about," he said. "The process gives them a rock-solid foundation, upon which you can build the other elements of the Catholic faith."

Commission members are excited about their third RCIA focus workshop for this year, "The Period of Purification and Enlightenment," featuring Steven Janco, director of liturgy and music at a parish in the Diocese of Illinois and a member of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

"We have explored the period of inquiry and the period of the catechumenate," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan faith formation office. "Now it is time to explore the period of purification and enlightenment."

The workshop will explore how to incorporate the RCIA into the liturgical process of the Easter Triduum.

"It will be beneficial for priests, deacons and musicians as well as parish team members to attend ... to see where their role is ... what they can do

in their parishes to make it work," said Father Schratz. "It's the entire parish's responsibility to be involved (in the RCIA)."

"The foundation of the rite is evangelization. It's not just the work of RCIA ministers but our work as a church," said Licata.

"The rite is not just to make new Catholics but to form disciples," she said. "It forms new Catholics and all of us as we walk with them on their journey to God. It has the power to transform the church — how we're called to live out our mission in the church."

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

Want to Go?

To attend "The Period of Purification and Enlightenment" with Steve Janco at St. Aloysius Church on Saturday, Nov. 13, call (828) 327-2341.

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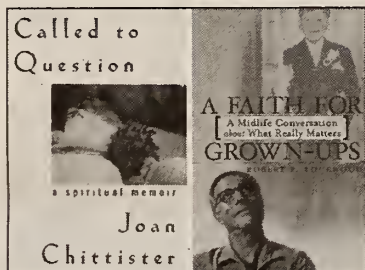
Two American Catholics look back on their faith lives

REVIEWED BY OWEN PHELPS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It is hard to imagine how two personal reflections on Catholicism could be more different than "Called to Question: A Spiritual Memoir" by Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister of Erie, Pa., and "A Faith for Grown-Ups: A Midlife Conversation About What Really Matters" by Pittsburgh's diocesan communications director, Robert P. Lockwood.

One thing they have in common is insight about being a mature Catholic in 21st-century America.

Their differences are profound. There is almost nothing similar about their backgrounds, their focus, their concerns or their intended audiences.



Both vividly reflect on their Catholic upbringings. But Lockwood's was a happy time loaded with friendships. Sister Joan describes a tormented, solitary childhood that she struggled to transcend. Sister Joan's book is an inner journey of the soul. Lockwood reaches out to others.

Sister Joan's fans — and they are legion as she is a widely published author and well-known speaker — will enjoy sharing her personal faith journey, from her earliest days to her recent years as one of America's most prominent women religious.

The chapters are organized into seven sections ranging from the "inward life" to issues of resistance and ecology.

Occasionally one finds insight, as when she describes why thinkers chafe at commands: "Orders bind us to an immediate response, but listening sets us free to think things through." But she paints the nuanced world she inhabits with a broad brush, not always concerned about staying within the lines.

"Every era manufactures a heresy proper to the times. Quietism is ours," she writes. Really?

On page 223, I scribbled: "I think Joan and I are on the same page spiritually, but she carries some baggage that does not burden me — and much anger." On page 224 she acknowledges the burden of "old baggage." She says one needs to "grow beyond the wounds and memories," but in the end it is not clear that she does.

Lockwood's book is different because it is not his purpose to come to grips with his past. He goes back in time to establish common ground with his intended reader — the baby boomer who drifted away from the faith because of a slight, a grudge or just the momentum of growing up in a post-Christian culture.

Lockwood himself drifted away with the flow of college life, but his drift was short-lived. After soon found a place in the Catholic press and worked his way to the posts of president and publisher of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing. While he was there, we met and became friends.

Lockwood is familiar with all the baggage, misinformation and misunderstanding that have kept many of his cradle-Catholic contemporaries from the practice of their faith. He seeks to have a respectful "conversation" with them.

His message is one of liberation: Forget the trappings of childhood that bother, befuddle and burden you; focus instead on the core of Catholicism and enjoy a richer, more satisfying life. He knows the core and writes about it with clarity.

His book does something I would like to do — and sometimes try to do — with old friends and other contemporaries who have lost their way or feel adrift, looking for an anchor as life recedes.

Lockwood writes that he likes the often-quoted description of the Catholic Church as "Here comes everybody." That description is still good news for Catholics, even if some don't like to hear it and others don't believe it.

And it helps explain how such different authors — and their books — are Catholic.

Phelps is director of communications for the Diocese of Rockford, Ill., and associate publisher of The Observer, Rockford diocesan newspaper.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 7, 2004

Nov. 7, 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalms 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 2:16 to 3:5
- 3) Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

God invites us to rise, shine

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was a child, I had an upstairs bedroom from which I would hear the morning clarion call of my mother waking me up for school.

Usually her greeting would begin with a cheerful, "Rise and shine!" But if I tried to sneak in a few more minutes of sleep, a note of exasperation would creep into her voice. On those rare occasions when I heard footsteps marching up the stairs, I knew it was time to get up — and fast!

My husband's childhood memory is similar, except that his mother appended the morning greeting with, "Rise and shine — it's daylight in the swamps!"

It wasn't until recently that I was struck by the notion that the invitation was not only to get up out of the bed, but to "shine."

This week's Scriptures begin with the story of the martyrdom of seven

brothers, all of whom trusted in the power of God to raise them up and restore them to life. This passage reflects the belief of many Jews in the last two centuries before Jesus' birth that physical death was not the end, but that somehow God, as the author of life, could and would restore the living.

In the Gospel, Jesus refutes the Sadducees — those Jews who did not believe in a resurrection — by telling them that the belief in an afterlife was not a recent notion, since Moses himself had professed it. Jesus emphatically states that God is the God of the living; thus a child of God is one who by his or her very nature is filled with life.

The message is meant to assure the believer of the promise of deliverance from death and the existence of an afterlife.

But the "God of the living" is not merely a rescuer at the hour of death; God is a here-and-now source of life in all its fullness. To be a follower of Jesus, to claim status as a child of God, one embraces the gift of life in all its myriad manifestations, whether in oneself or in another.

This promised life invites us to wake from our sleep of complacency — not only to rise, but to shine with the very vitality of God.

Questions:

What does the statement "God is the God of the living" mean to you? In what way are you being resistant to the fullness of God's life shining through you?

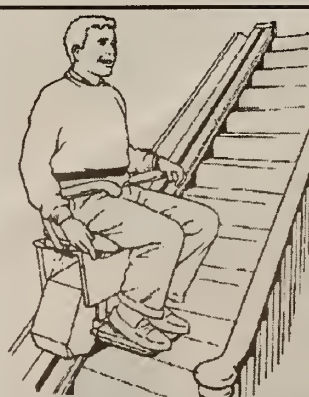
WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 6

Sunday (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 11:22-12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2, Luke 19:1-10; **Monday (All Saints),** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday (All Souls Day),** Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; **Wednesday (St. Martin de Porres),** Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday (St. Charles Borromeo),** Philippians 3:3-8, Luke 15:1-10; **Friday,** Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday,** Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 13

Sunday (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38; **Monday,** Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica),** Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; **Wednesday (St. Leo the Great),** Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:1-19; **Thursday (St. Martin of Tours),** Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Josaphat),** 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Frances Cabrini),** 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8.



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Anniversary couples honored at annual celebration

MARRIAGE, from page 1

presence of so many anniversary couples who are celebrating Christ's abiding love in their marriage," said Bishop Jugis during his homily.

"It is in a spirit of joy and gratitude to Almighty God that you come to this Mass in this special marriage anniversary year for each of you," he said. "Each year has been a gift from God, and now in 2004 you have reached a special milestone by God's grace."

The bishop said the anniversary couples have endured to this day not only because of their love for each other but also for their love of Jesus.

"It is your union with him which has guaranteed the presence of his grace in your marriage," said Bishop Jugis.

"If there is no union with Christ, no love for Christ, then his grace cannot work effectively," he said. "But marriage produces the fruit of holiness, of charity, of peace, because of your abiding union with Christ."

"This is the key — in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, as the marriage vows state: your abiding union with Christ," said the bishop.

"Marriage is not always easy, but

the couples' commitments to one another and to God has helped them endure," said Gerard Carter, director of the diocesan Family Life Office, which organizes the celebration.

"Of all the things that come with life, these couples symbolize what it means to be committed despite the complexities," he said.

"It sets a precedent for other couples to see this is sacred," said Marie Aceti. "On our wedding day, we dedicated our lives to Jesus."

"The love of Christ perfects your love," the bishop told the couples. "Christ's love teaches us to be patient with each other, to be understanding, to be compassionate to each other, to be merciful, to be forgiving of the other's faults; in short, to know the perfection of love."

"The joining of a man and woman in matrimony gives the couple life and meaning that would not exist without their joining," said Dominic Esposito, who celebrated 50 years with his wife, Julia. They are parishioners of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

Bishop Jugis spoke of the many "blemishes" that have disfigured the beauty of marriage over the years, such as polygamy, divorce, selfishness, hedonism and unlawful contraceptive practices.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Anniversary couples renew their wedding vows during the annual diocesan wedding anniversary Mass at St. Gabriel Church Oct. 24.

"...But today we must add another situation which devalues and further weakens marriage — the trend toward making same-sex unions the legal equivalent of marriage," said Bishop Jugis.

"Whenever our contemporary society takes hold of marriage, it ends up making marriage something very different from what God intended it to be — something very different from the beau-

tiful sacrament we are honoring today at this Mass," he said.

Father Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Gabriel Church, and Father Robert Conway, parochial vicar, concelebrated the Mass, with Deacon Ben Wenning assisting. Bishop Jugis also celebrated his own anniversary — the day marked the one-year anniversary of his ordination as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The bishop really is a holy man," said Tony Aceti. "He radiates holiness."

After the bishop's homily, the couples stood, faced each other and renewed their marriage vows. Their promises were then sealed with a kiss.

"It was moving to repeat our vows — very special and touching," said Marie Aceti.

"Marriage is a sacrament, a covenant, a vocation, a way of salvation," said Bishop Jugis. "You are the living signs that marriage and family life are alive and well."

"I thank you for the privilege of sharing in your love and joy today," he said.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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| Rev. John J. Hyland | 1975 |
| Rev. John S. Regan | 1976 |
| Rev. Stephen A. Sullivan | 1989 |

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Well-being for seniors

SENIORS, from page 1

Reflection at St. Mark Church in Huntersville Oct. 21.

Sister Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, was the keynote speaker for the event, which brought seniors from 11 parishes together to explore and challenge their faith. Diocesan Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry sponsored the annual event, which also held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Oct. 28.

Sister Kienast compared the hearth — historically the centerpiece of the home, providing warmth and light — to a person's heart, providing hospitality, compassion and sensitivity.

"Does growing older mean growing colder?" she asked. "Is there room in our hearts for all those seeking understanding and caring?"

"Our church needs our heart, our warmth, our wisdom," Sister Kienast said, urging her audience not to ignore the suffering of others.

She also told those gathered not to squander the wisdom they have gained over the years by thinking their "time has past" or they have given enough.

"How can any Catholic look up at the crucifix and say 'I've done enough — I've given enough?'" she asked. "When you stop giving, you stop living."

Sister Kienast called those gathered at the Fall Day of Reflection part of "the greatest Catholic generation."

"I believe those Catholics who reached adulthood in the 1950s and '60s brought about the strength in the church," she said.

According to Sister Kienast, the "we can do it" attitude of post-World War II Catholics fueled the success of Catholicism in the '50s and '60s, including the construction of more Catholic schools than ever before and the spread of Catholicism in the South.

"Sister Jeanne Marie helped to inspire, focus and empower our Catholic seniors," said Sandra Breakfield, director of diocesan Elder Ministry. "It was an incredible day."

"Because (the event) brings seniors together from different parishes, it allows them to interact and helps them feel part of the larger Catholic Church," said Sister Kienast.

Elder Ministry provides guidance to parishes within the Diocese of Charlotte in order to enhance the well-being of older adults. Each year, Elder Ministry serves more than 600 senior Catholics in the diocese through events such as the Spring Fling, Fall Day of Reflection and Health and Safety Fair, Breakfield said.

The Fall Day of Reflection was one of two events sponsored by Elder Ministry held in Mecklenburg County last week.

A Health and Safety Fair, co-sponsored by the Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging, was held at St. Ann Church Oct. 19. The fair showcased a variety of senior living options, scam prevention techniques and health screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, osteoporosis and spinal analysis.

"Each year, with the help of many hard-working volunteers, Elder Ministry provides programs that enrich the physical, psychological and spiritual well-being of senior adults throughout the Diocese of Charlotte," said Breakfield.

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IN THE NEWS

Hispanic rituals considered

RITUALS, from page 1

which a large veil or shawl is placed completely over the bride and over the shoulders of the groom to symbolize that the bride is the center of the new home the couple is about to establish.

Currently, these rituals are used by Hispanics in U.S. liturgical services but without standardized texts. Spanish-language texts are often borrowed from Latin American countries where these rituals are officially incorporated into liturgical services.

Including these Hispanic traditions

in the U.S. liturgy is an acknowledgment by the bishops of what is already happening in the Hispanic Catholic community, said Father Juan Sosa, president of the National Hispanic Institute for the Liturgy.

"The bishops of the United States are filling the virtual needs of people who want to express their traditions that have come down from the centuries," said Father Sosa, a member of the bishops' subcommittee on Hispanic liturgy, which helped draft the Spanish texts.

These traditions symbolize important Christian concepts, he added.

"The 'arras' symbolize an exchanging of equality between the spouses in

household stewardship. It is the first offering of the newlywed couple to God," he said.

The "lazo" and the "velacion" symbolize the "binding together of what God has joined," he said.

At the November meeting, the bishops will also be asked to approve Spanish-language texts for infant baptisms.

The texts scheduled to be voted on are part of a long-term project by the bishops to translate into Spanish all the English-language liturgical books approved for use in the United States.

The project involves bilingual editions of the books with Spanish on one side of the page and English on the other.

The purpose of bilingual editions is to facilitate their use by English-speaking priests who have a limited command

of Spanish and Spanish-speaking priests who have a limited use of English, said Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George in an explanatory note to the bishops that accompanies the document on the liturgical texts. The cardinal is chairman of the U.S. bishops' liturgy committee, which is supervising the translations.

Father Sosa said that the bilingual books also would make it easier to perform bilingual services in increasingly multicultural U.S. parishes.

"The inclusion in bilingual form in the official books of the church will give importance to the rituals that the Hispanic Catholics have brought with them to the United States," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The values that are contained in the rituals are wonderful values for other cultures as well as for the Hispanic communities," she said.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

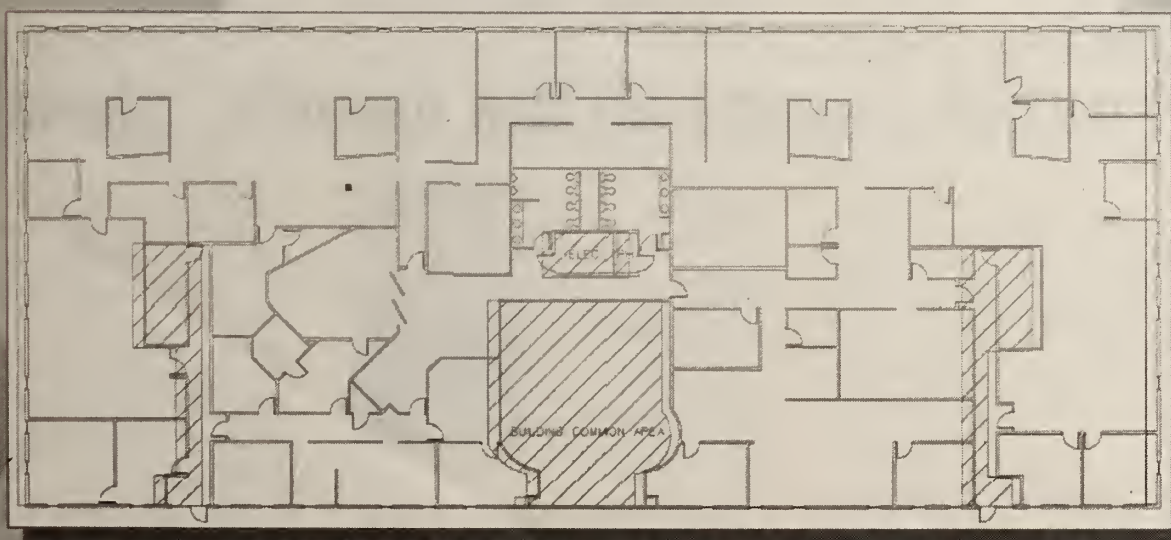
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Finally able to laugh

Reflecting on wedding-day mishaps

My husband Andre and I observed our 16th wedding anniversary in October. For the first time in years, I can laugh at things that went terribly wrong during our wedding despite meticulous planning.

Like clockwork we'd met all requirements, cross-checking 200 guests' addresses. I preferred only one bridesmaid, my best friend Elmira Thornton. Andre's buddy Phillip Dean Adams was his best man. We rested easy with Jesuit Father Glenn Murray and Marjorie Gabriel-Burrow, major contributors to the black Catholic hymnal "Lead Me, Guide Me," as coordinators of our 7 p.m. nuptial.

Then a rift appeared in my seamless tapestry.

During the final proofing of our invitation, I did not catch that I had listed "H" and not "L" for the middle initial in the name of our wedding's principal celebrant — Bishop Joseph Lawson Howze of Biloxi, Miss.

The limousine driver chose our wedding day to shampoo the car's burgundy velour interior, something I did not discover until I emerged in a damp wedding gown.

The photographer, whose service was a gift, arrived late, left early and did not take one photo of our wedding party.

The best man arrived without the groom, saying warily: "Carole, I waited for Andre as long as I could, as long as I dared. I've brought his tux with me."

And where was the happy groom? Waiting at a barbershop to get his hair cut. When he arrived an hour late, he was directed to the convent where an elderly Franciscan nun had his tux and was praying for his imminent arrival.

Once inside the church, Andre ran toward me and fell on his knees, asking for forgiveness. When my friend Beverly McFarland overheard that he didn't have the ring, she snatched her own diamond off her finger and gave it to him.

Andre was to walk down the aisle first, flanked by his father and mother. Then I was to process with my parents.

The music began.

Nervous and not realizing that his father was there from Virginia, Andre took off down the aisle on the arm of only his mother, an attractive, youthful-looking woman whose pale-silver gown made some of my out-of-town friends who'd never met Andre think they were at the wrong wedding.

When my parents and I processed down the aisle, breathing freely at last, my breath caught as I saw my local auxiliary, Josephite Bishop John Ricard, seated in the sanctuary with Bishop Howze. In an instant I realized that I had breached an unspoken protocol by not informing him that Bishop Howze would be in Baltimore officiating. Sheepishly I grinned at him, honored nonethe-

Bridging Gaps

CAROLE NORRIS
GREENE
CNS COLUMNIST



less that he would concelebrate.

It was Marist Brother Cyprian Lamar Rowe's reflection on the true meaning of love, tough at times, that helped us all to loosen up.

I still recall what Bud Schutzman, Andre's friend and former employer, said to me when we danced at the reception: "Smile, honey, and enjoy this moment. They'll never come together again for you like this until your funeral." He urged me to embrace all the good that's in the present moment, and not to linger over all that should have been.

Before returning my friend's ring, I said half jokingly, half seriously to Bishop Howze, "When I get my wedding rings, I'll have to mail them to you because I want YOUR blessing on them!"

He smiled indulgently, betraying a skill born of years of dealing with us sheep and our dilemmas.

"Oh, there's no need to do that," he replied. "The blessing stays with the finger!"

Put parish picnics on the agenda, please

As you probably have read already, the U.S. Catholic bishops are holding their fall national meeting in mid-November. To our chagrin here at the Roadkill Theological Roundtable, they have not included an agenda item we advocated: a pastoral letter on parish picnics.

I know you are as disappointed as we.

"Maybe they just didn't think parish picnics constituted a serious topic," ventured my friend Bud last Sunday over RTR coffee and donuts.

"Then they've never experienced tainted potato salad," snapped his wife, Marlene.

"Or ripped a tendon in a three-legged race," I added.

"Or been called out at home on what was clearly a wrong call," noted Msgr. O'Kneel as he passed our table.

We at RTR are resilient, though.

We have faced similar disappointments in the past from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To date they have not addressed other proposed agenda items: a national mascot; abstaining from television on Fridays; buying a major sports fran-

Pope thanks missionaries, pays homage to those killed while working

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: Due to an early publishing schedule, we are unable to bring you the story from the pope's weekly audience on Wednesday.

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II thanked missionaries at work all over the world and paid special homage to those who have died while performing their work of evangelization.

In his Angelus address Oct. 24, the pope offered his "very cordial greeting and profound thanks" to the many missionaries gathered in St. Peter's Square as well as to those carrying out the difficult and often dangerous task "on the frontiers of evangelization."

He promised them all "a special remembrance in prayer."

The pope gave his greeting following a Mass marking World Mission Sunday. He did not celebrate the Mass.

Speaking from the window of his apartment to the crowd gathered below, the pope said he gave particular thought to "those who crowned their witness to Christ and service to man with the sacrifice of their lives."

He reminded the faithful to "renew their own responsibility in the word of the Gospel to all people."

The Vatican says that approximately 30 missionaries lose their lives every year, but that tens of thousands of Christians die annually because of

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



their faith, the Italian missionary news agency, Asianews, reported.

Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, told Vatican Radio in an Oct. 23 interview that there are about 75,000 Catholic missionaries around the world "who leave their country, their land, their families, their language and their culture and offer themselves to their brothers to announce Christ."

Statistics issued by Fides, the news agency of the congregation, show that out of a world population of 6 billion people 1 billion are Catholic. The number of Catholics decreased slightly on every continent except Asia.

The number of lay missionaries, Fides reported, increased on every continent except Europe.

Cardinal Sepe reminded Catholics that "every baptized person is essentially a missionary" and should "give witness to their faith in their own environment."

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



However: a) Washington, D.C., is really chilly in November; b) we'd probably be overwhelmed by the same-sex marriage and/or optional celibacy people; and c) the NFL season is in full swing.

The bishops are, however, going to vote on the text for an adult national catechism for U.S. Catholics, and we can hope a future edition might include a footnote on parish picnics.

They are electing new officers. Maybe one of the candidates will include parish picnics in his platform.

Not to dream too much, but they might also commission a pastoral letter on marriage, and what kind of pastoral would that be if it did not mention the role of the parish in strengthening marriage and the role of picnics in fostering strong parishes. Right?

The bishops might even talk about joining Christian Churches Together, an offspring of the National Council of Churches. There would be nothing like a picnic to nurture ecumenical relations, as long as it was clear who was in charge of cleanup.

chise; developing a theology of parish garage sales ("theocrapology"); endorsing an official food to give up during Lent; or a national cell-phone policy for religious celebrations.

For the reader in Springfield who is going to write a testy note: We were only kidding about asking the bishops to develop a secret Catholic handshake. Clearly, the National Council of Catholic Men can handle (get it? hand-le?) that.

We have thought of a public protest — maybe standing outside the meeting wearing sandwich boards and neon orange road pylons as hats. Or we could dress as a favorite picnic item, my personal favorite being Mrs. Castagna's guacamole.

Domestic violence: A real nightmare

I used to think domestic violence only happened behind closed doors in inner cities and Third-World countries. It certainly didn't happen to intelligent women who chose compatible life partners. It didn't happen to educated, successful women who graduated summa cum laude from prestigious universities.

Then I began to meet them and hear their stories. One was my college roommate's close friend. She divorced the guy after lying to herself for years that they somehow would work it out. Another was a family member who is now living apart from the batterer but has resumed communication.

But by far the saddest story to date came via e-mail from a friend.

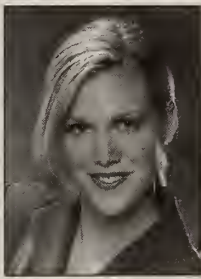
A woman with whom she went to school, Bree Schuette, met her future husband, Mikhail, while studying for her Ph.D. in economics from Boston University. Their first child, Veronika, was born in January 2000. A few months later they traveled to Russia to introduce Veronika to her paternal grandparents.

In her Web site (<http://veronika65.tripod.com/index.html>), Bree tells of the events that then unfolded. She reports that Mikhail refused to allow her and Veronika to return to the United States, and he forbade her to communicate with friends and family back home.

This smart, capable woman felt trapped in a violently abusive marriage.

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



She reports suffering broken fingers, ribs, wrists and four concussions. When she was taken to the hospital after the most severe injuries, Mikhail refused to pay for recommended medical treatment. As is the case with many victims of domestic violence, she was cut off from any support system, and she was ashamed of what was happening.

In February 2001, their son Valerij was born. Bree reports that when Valerij was 16 months old he was abused to death by his father, who forced her to watch a gruesome video recording of it. Somehow in between life threats and bloody assaults, Bree found the strength to attempt numerous escapes from Russia with Veronika. Finally, with the help of the American consulate, she successfully fled — but without her daughter.

Knowing that if she were dead she couldn't help her daughter, she made "Sophie's Choice" and returned home, to Minneapolis, Minn., with only the

clothes on her back and eight photos of her children. There she recovered from her injuries and with her parents' help started a domestic violence awareness campaign to plead her case for her daughter's safe return.

Risking her own safety again, she returned to St. Petersburg in late August to press charges against her estranged husband for abuse of her and the murder of their son, and with the hope of bringing Veronika home at the end of the trial.

On her Web site, Bree chronicles her horrific story, posts press releases and other information about domestic violence, and provides the addresses for Russian officials to whom readers may write petitions online or otherwise on her behalf.

Bree's parents, Linda and Gary Schuette, also are coordinating outreach efforts in the United States. They are available to speak about domestic abuse and may be reached at bringveronikahome@yahoo.com.

Today one out of every three women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood, according to a 1996 study by the American Psychological Association.

A new survey by the Center for the Advancement of Women indicates that 92 percent of American women rank domestic and sexual violence as one of their top priorities.

It happens so regularly that it rarely makes headlines anymore, which is why it is so important to write and talk and do something about it.

Taking care of the poor, taking care of yourself

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



Many saints we commemorate throughout the liturgical year remind us to reach out to the poor.

Take, for example, St. Vincent de Paul, who devoted his life to the peasantry of France. In his writings he tells us that as Christ was born of a poor family, served the poor and picked his apostles from the poor, so too should we be concerned for the poor.

In the Mass for St. Vincent de Paul, the Gospel speaks of Christ pitying the crowds because they are like sheep without a shepherd. Serving the poor involves caring for those who lack necessities in life. But there is another side of this: caring for oneself. Giving hands-on care can be more demanding than it may seem.

Reaching out to the poor is all about exercising the virtue of charity. Nonetheless, we have to expect at times to be rebuffed, taken advantage of or overwhelmed.

In Washington, D.C., we have many homeless people milling along Pennsylvania Ave. On cold days, I have seen social workers try to distribute blankets and encourage them to go into shelters. Often this kind gesture is met by curses and rejection.

There are also homeless who hang around the train station and restaurants. Some are truly in need, others are operators who know all the tricks of making you feel guilty. Some use the money they receive for drugs and alcohol.

What is most agonizing about concern for the poor is that there are so many truly poor people who need care. When we take this seriously, it tears the heart out of us.

A rule seasoned caregivers follow, whether serving the poor or a loved one, is that being kind to others requires that you definitely be kind to yourself.

There have been many who tried following St. Vincent de Paul's example but stopped because of burnout. They took on everyone's problems, but never took off time for themselves. In some circles, this is called the "Messiah complex."

Another rule caregivers follow is to disconnect every so often. If we spend a lot of time with people who tend to lack hope, we may grow negative, leaving ourselves open to disillusionment and depression.

Caretakers must take care to surround themselves with healthy, energetic people.

Charity not only requires love. It requires wisdom.

Faith on film

Movies can bring faithful together

I like the movies. A good movie can transport you away to another place and time. It can hold up a mirror to our world. A film can make us feel and see things we otherwise would miss.

The success last year of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" reawakened a lot of us to the idea that movies can be a spiritual experience. That is why our parish is going to start a new program. We call it "Faith on Film."

Over the course of a year we are going to show 20 movies. Afterward, if people want they will be invited to discuss the themes raised by these films.

The movies will not just be about overtly religious themes, like the "Ten Commandments." They also will be films that awaken in us a religious sense or explore a theme of our faith.

As part of preparing for this program, I asked our parish film critic, a 14-year-old boy named Daniel, to give me a list. Dan has seen practically every major movie ever made. He really knows his cinema.

He came back with some good ideas: "A Man for All Seasons," "Lilies of the Field" and "The Shoes of the Fisherman." He also wanted a "Lord of the Rings" festival. (Not sure we can do that.)

I asked some older people. They wanted nostalgic films of their youth,

including "Going My Way," "The Bells of St. Mary's" and "The Song of Bernadette."

Some others suggested sentimental favorites like "The Miracle of Marcelino," "Boys Town" and "The Nun's Story."

Historical classics about the church are good candidates. That list might include "Ben-Hur" and "Becket."

There are lots of movies about the saints, including "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" (about St. Francis of Assisi), and "Saint Joan."

Some movies made for television are also on the list, like "Catholics" and "The Prisoner" (about Cardinal Mindszenty).

Catholic social teaching could be discussed with movies like "On the Waterfront" and "The Mission" and "Romero."

Catholic novels on film also make the list, such as "Diary of a Country Priest," "The Power and the Glory" and "Monsignor Quixote."

Some films are not overtly religious, but they evoke a religious sensitivity. On that list we might show "Chariots of Fire," "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Babette's Feast" (a eucharistic theme).

Sports movies also have religious possibilities. Among the ones that come to mind are "Brian's Song" and "Rudy"

Parish Diary

FATHER
PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



(about a guy who wanted to play for Notre Dame).

The idea is to use entertainment to teach and edify.

If you are like me, you probably don't really like watching movies alone. With other people the experience is better. It is nice to hear others react to the screen in their laughs, gasps and sighs.

Our parish is blessed to have a good theater with a great sound system, so it will be just like a real movie experience. The only difference is that we won't charge anything for the movies (we will of course pay all the required royalties).

I think that this could be a good little experiment. When I was in Italy in the 1980s, I remember that a lot of parishes had a "salone del cine" (a movie room) where they showed films once a week. It was a great way to bring people together, a painless way to educate.

I'm looking forward to this series myself. During a cheap night out without going anywhere, we can be transported everywhere.

Film suggestions can be e-mailed to Father Daly at sjo@chesapeake.net.

St. Bernadette Church provides tranquil house of God in the shadow of Grandfather Mountain

ST. BERNADETTE CHURCH

Mission of St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine

Route 105

Linville, NC 28646

(828) 898-6900

Vicariate: Boone

Pastor: Father Christopher Gober

Number of families: 230 (100 year-round)



Father Christopher Gober



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Bernadette Church in Linville stands in the shadow of Grandfather Mountain in Avery County.

LINVILLE — While the mission church in Linville placed under the patronage of St. Bernadette is only 17 years old, its lineage dates back decades thanks to a growing Catholic presence in the area during the 1930s.

In 1935, a chapel dedicated to St. Bernadette was established in Spruce Pine, 15 miles southwest of Linville. A new church was built on the site in 1938, and was renamed St. Lucien in memory of the principal benefactor's deceased daughter.

The church and rectory were dedicated and blessed in August 1940.

Back in Linville, then-Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh had founded a mission in June 1940 to serve the Catholics in Avery County. L.W. and Marion Driscoll of New York, who owned a chapel in the Linville township, donated the structure to the diocese.

Dedicated to the service of God and named St. Patricia Chapel by Bishop McGuinness, the little church opened its doors to area Catholics for more than 40 years, all the while as a mission of St. Lucien Church.

By the last 1970s, the North Carolina mountains had become a popular summer vacation spot, and the 30-seat St. Patricia Chapel could no longer accommodate the number of Catholics — both resident and visiting — coming to worship. Masses were added, but that solution too became inadequate.

Priests began celebrating weekend Masses in a Beech Mountain restaurant, at Lees-McRae College, in Linville Episcopal Church and finally in a Presbyterian church in Banner Elk, while daily Mass continued to be celebrated at St. Patricia Chapel. In November 1987, the diocese returned the chapel to the Driscoll family.

A building fund was established in 1977 by Father Henry Becker, and he began searching for a location for the new Catholic church. One of his successors, Father John Pagel, took charge of the building project and in November 1984, the Diocese of Charlotte purchased a 10-acre tract of land facing Grandfather Mountain.

Fund-raising efforts continued for three years within the Catholic

community of Linville.

In 1987, then-Bishop John F. Donoghue gave his approval for building to begin. Special emphasis was placed on capturing the beauty of the North Carolina mountains in and at the church.

The exterior was created in part with stone from the Linville area, and the sanctuary's rear wall was fashioned of glass to allow a view of Grandfather Mountain and its famous mile-high

swinging bridge.

The first Mass was celebrated in the new St. Bernadette Church Dec. 31, 1988. Bishop Donoghue dedicated the building in June 1989. Father Richard McCue, a retired U.S. Navy chaplain and now a retired diocesan priest, was pastor at that time.

Father Aloysius D'Silva was installed as pastor of St. Lucien Church and its mission, St. Bernadette Church, in November 1994. In addition to the local parishioners who call St. Bernadette Church their spiritual home, Father D'Silva celebrated Mass with hundreds of vacationers who frequented the area year-round, especially in the summer months.

On New Year's Eve 1998, the community of St. Bernadette Church celebrated its 10th anniversary together as a family of faith. During the summer of 1999, a grotto honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Bernadette was dedicated.


In the spring of 2002, Father Kurt Fohn was appointed as administrator of St. Lucien and St. Bernadette churches by then-Bishop William G. Curlin. In the summer of 2003, Bishop Peter J. Jugis appointed Father Christopher Gober as pastor of both churches.

The church responds to a number of needs in Avery County. Parishioners are involved in prison ministry, hospice, literacy programs, Habitat for Humanity and Boone Crisis Pregnancy Center.

St. Bernadette Church continues to serve as a testimony to the evangelical spirit of Catholicism in the North Carolina mountains.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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your meeting is half
the fun and arriving
there is a pleasure...



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile

St. Joseph of the Hills
Church serves small,
vibrant community

| PAGE 16

NOVEMBER 5, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 6

Much done to protect children from abuse, says archbishop

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON —

Children are safer in the church now because of sex abuse prevention policies adopted by the U.S. bishops two years ago, said Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis, head of the bishops' committee that oversees review of the policies.

In an Oct. 13 telephone interview, he added that public confidence in the Catholic Church, which diminished because of the clergy sex abuse scandal, "will be built up again, but it will be a gradual thing."

Archbishop Flynn is chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse, which is supervising a two-year review of the sex

See ABUSE, page 13

Helping dish out God's love

*Parishioners
visit sister
parish in Peru*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MANAZO, Peru —

Transformations come in many ways. According to Marlene Pratto, visiting a sister parish will help.

"The people ... make you cry with their warm, sincere welcome. They shower you with love. They will make you think you are a long lost relative, they are so happy to see you," she said.

Pratto was among a group of 10 people from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro to visit their sister parish of Santiago in Manazo, Peru April 18-29. A parish group makes the trip to the Peruvian

See PERU, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Msr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, checks out one of the soup pots used by needy children during the parish's visit with their sister parish in Manazo, Peru April 18-29.

Electing to vote



COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA HORTON

Students at St. Ann School in Charlotte take part in the Mecklenburg County Kids Vote Campaign. The fifth-grade Art Club transformed a classroom into a precinct with three voting booths. Kindergarten through fifth-grade students then cast their "votes," electing George W. Bush as the next U.S. president.

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE

Couple embodies stewardship in parish, community

*Going to Mass
isn't enough, says
parishioner*

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE — It's the annual Halloween party,

held after Sunday Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Charlie and Joan Surber are in the parish hall's kitchen, helping to distribute pizza and soft drinks to parents and their kids costumed as saints and storybook characters.

Usually, the Surbers like to work behind the scenes.

See STEWARDS, page 6

More Coverage

page 6 | Many brave hurricane for stewardship conference in New Orleans

page 15 | Bishop Jugis discusses Stewardship Sunday, a time to respond to God's generosity

Aquinas and Luther
on marriage

Clergy, scholars discuss
topic at annual conference

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In Our Schools

Cultural group visits
Asheville Catholic; St. Ann
teacher gets award

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Culture Watch

Benedictine monk debunks
'Da Vinci Code'; 'Little
Flower' blossoms on screen

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HOME SWEET HOME?



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A homeless child sleeps under an old rusty car on a street in Cairo, Egypt, Aug. 20. During a Vatican-sponsored conference on street children, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto said the United Nations and Amnesty International estimate that there are between 100 million and 150 million street children in the world.

Pastoral workers urge adapting street kid programs to local realities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Father Guy Gilbert does not look like your ordinary priest: Sporting a star-studded, black leather motorcycle jacket and smoking rolled cigarettes, he seems more like the street kids he has been helping in Paris for the past 40 years.

And that is precisely the point.

"At the beginning, dressing like this helped me enter into contact with young people. I will dress like this till the end of my days," said the priest, whose organization, La Bergerie de Faucon, has the mission of saving troubled teenagers' souls.

"We want young people to understand that one is not born a delinquent, but one becomes a delinquent, and that one can stop being a delinquent through a strong educative program," Father Gilbert said.

The French priest was one of several pastoral workers from 20 countries — most from the developing world — who attended the first international meeting on the pastoral care of street children sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

During the Oct. 25-26 meeting, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the council, said the United Nations and Amnesty International estimate that there are between 100 million and 150 million street children in the world.

The council's primary objective, he said, "is to make bishops take responsibility at the local level" for developing a pastoral outreach to such children, while recognizing the value of programs carried out by Catholic and other private organizations.

Participants at the conference em-

phasized the need to adapt programs to the specific realities in which the children are living, Archbishop Marchetto said.

Family breakups are the leading cause of children on the street, followed by emigration and poverty, said Mario Pollo, a professor at Rome's Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta.

"It's mainly a city phenomenon," he said, citing the example of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where an estimated 12,000-18,000 children live on the streets. "Emigration from the countryside has created internal hells within these megalopolises."

But Brazil is one of the countries where the phenomenon is actually declining.

"In countries like Brazil and Romania, both churches and public institutions have put up a good fight against it," Pollo said.

"The fight against this should not just be in the hands of a few prophets, but a permanent feature of the ecclesiastical community and society at large," he said.

Other programs represented at the October conference aim to alleviate the causes of children living on the streets, particularly poverty.

Columban Father Shay Cullen, director of the Philippines' PREDA Foundation, an association that has been nominated multiple times for the Nobel Peace Prize, said UNICEF figures show more than 60,000 girls in the Philippines work as prostitutes. The PREDA Foundation also has programs to rehabilitate them.

"Why are there 100 million child sex slaves in the world? Even half that number would be shocking," the priest said. "This leads us to reflection on the human spirit."

Nuncio says religious groups have right to participate in public life

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican's U.N. nuncio Oct. 26 called for the international community to recognize that religious freedom includes the right of religious groups to participate in public life as well as the right of individuals to freedom of conscience.

"The attitude of those who would like to confine religious expression to the merely private sphere ignores and denies the nature of authentic religious convictions," said Archbishop Celestino Migliore.

Legal structures ought to "foster the contribution of believers to the common good of society" rather than seek to restrict it, he said.

The nuncio made his comments to a committee of the U.N. General Assembly reviewing questions of human rights.

Religious groups ought to be allowed to work in social, educational and humanitarian fields, and to do so while remaining religiously distinct, he said.

He said enabling them to operate in an openly religious way would enrich "a genuine culture of pluralism" and provide much needed services to the poor, the vulnerable and the needy.

But "attempts to secularize or to interfere in the internal affairs of religious institutions would undermine their *raison d'être*," he said.

While emphasizing the importance and comprehensive nature of religious freedom, Archbishop Migliore also said religious leaders have a special responsibility to prevent "any misuse or misrepresentation of religious beliefs and freedom."

He said they are "called to create and spread a sensitivity" that would "never turn to acts of terror" but would "reject and condemn such acts as a profanation of religion."

Archbishop Migliore concluded by telling the international community that the Vatican would continue to defend religious freedom vigorously.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The *Rosary Chain* is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Just Second Fridays (JSF) will take place Nov. 12, 1-2 p.m., in the lower level (Atrium Room) of the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Rev. Madeline McClenney-Sadler, Ph.D., executive director of Exodus Foundation, will speak on "Moving from Wilderness to Promise: A Faith-based Response to Assist Ex-Prisoners in Realizing Their Gifts." JSF is a monthly lunchtime speaker series sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, in partnership with St. Peter Church. Parking is available in the underground garage next to St. Peter's. Bring your lunch; cold drinks are provided. Call (704) 370-3225 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — A *Special Mass for Deceased Spouses* will be celebrated Nov. 14 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A

reception will follow. For more information, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212 or e-mail bj_dengler@yahoo.com.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover will teach a series of classes on the *History of the Catholic Church* at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Classes will meet Fridays at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To register, call Sister Grover at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965* is being considered for the fall of 2005. E-mail Madeleine-Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumpdown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — *Fun and Fitness after 50* classes are being offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This program of gentle exercise promotes joint flexibility and muscle strength. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call Maureen Benfield at (704) 362-5047, ext. 221.

CHARLOTTE — *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is available for all members of the clergy and laity in the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Any

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says scouting important tool to help young people learn values

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic scouting is an important tool for helping young people learn the value of being faithful to God and true to others, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope met Oct. 23 with 40,000 Italian Catholic Scouts and Guides in St. Peter's Square. He told the smallest members — the Cubs and Ladybugs — "to do your best every day to grow joyfully" and to discover "the marvels of creation."

The pope asked the Guides and Scouts to be always ready to do good, to learn to be responsible and to become active members of their parishes and communities.

He asked the older members, the Sentries and Rovers, "to commit yourselves to making the word 'service' the motto of your lives in the

conviction that giving of oneself is the secret to making your existence beautiful and fruitful."

The pope asked the den and troop leaders to help the young people learn the values and social skills that will enable them "to contribute to building a world of friendship and solidarity."

"Be men and women who, basing their lives on the Gospel of Jesus, know how to educate others to live in freedom and with responsibility, to swim against the current in order to defeat the temptations of individualism, laziness and apathy," he told them.

Pope John Paul told the Italian scouting organization, "Do not be afraid to advance with imagination, wisdom and courage on the path of educating young generations."

parishioner and who would like to make a firm commitment to adoration for one hour a week is welcome to join the Perpetual Adoration Society. For details, call Kathleen at (704) 366-5127 or e-mail Terri at terridugan@earthlink.com

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Walt (704) 535-7723.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women announces its annual *Mass of Remembrance* Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. at The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St. Lunch will follow. All ladies are welcome. For more information, please contact Carmien Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Steve Key, director of *Open Door Ministries of High Point*, will speak about his organization at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 605 Barbee Ave., Nov. 19 at 2:10 p.m. The lecture kicks off an IHM canned food drive through Nov. 22 to replenish Open Door's food pantry. Non-perishable, family-sized cans of food can be brought to the lecture or to the school's administration building 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Nov. 19 and 22, or to the church at Johnson St. and Skeet Club Rd. Nov. 20-21.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays, 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more informa-

tion, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 p.m. Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — A open meeting of *Court St. Mary Mother of God of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas* will be held Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. Father Walter R. Williams, chaplain, will be guest speaker. His topic will be "Vatican II: the Dignity and Role of the Laity." The business meeting will follow Father Williams' presentation.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 7 — 2 p.m. Mass
Catholic Heritage Society
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte | Nov. 12 — 7 p.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Jefferson |
| Nov. 9 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center | Nov. 13 — 4 p.m. Mass
Knights of Columbus Council 939
100th Anniversary
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro |
| Nov. 9 — 7 p.m. Mass
Christ the King Church, Kings Mountain | |

Pope says he prays daily for, suffers with Iraqi victims of terrorism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II made a special appeal for Iraq, saying he suffered with the victims of terrorism there.

At the end of his weekly audience Oct. 27, the pope said he prayed daily for the people of Iraq who are "intent on the reconstruction of their country."

He expressed his "affectionate participation" in the pain of the families of victims and the suffering of hostages "and of all the innocent people struck by the blind barbarity of terrorism."

Christians, he said, should continue to "offer their fundamental contribution for the reconciliation of hearts" in the violence-torn country.

Pope names Nobel physicist, Indian scientist to sciences academy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named as members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences a Nobel-winning physicist and one of the

world's leading experts on how the use of aerosol sprays contributes to global warming.

The Vatican announced the appointments of the two U.S.-based researchers Oct. 23.

William D. Phillips, 55, won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1997; he is a professor of physics at the University of Maryland in College Park and leader of the Laser Cooling and Trapping Group of the Atomic Physics Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Veerabhadran Ramanathan, 59, a native of India, currently serves as director of the Center for Atmospheric Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif.

The Vatican said his research focuses on "how human activities influence the climate and environment of our planet."

The Pontifical Academy of Sciences brings together 80 scientists, about one-fourth of whom are Nobel laureates, from around the world to promote scientific research and to examine scientific questions of interest to the church. Members are chosen according to their expertise; most of them are not Catholic.

Standing on faith



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Over the course of three hours, nearly two dozen people, primarily from St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, lined up with placards outside the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Oct. 29. Carrying signs with mostly political messages, the group came to express their opposition to pre-emptive war, capital punishment and poverty, among other issues.

The group was soon joined by nearly 40 adults and children, primarily from St. Mark Church in Huntersville, who arrived with signs stating "We Support Our Bishop" and "You Can't Be Catholic and Pro-Abortion."

In August, Bishop Jugis, along with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, issued a letter stating that Catholic politicians who persistently supported abortion may not be admitted to Communion in their dioceses.

Before long, some members from both groups — who all said they were concerned with pro-life issues — joined hands in prayer before parting ways.

PEACE EFFORTS IN IRAQ



CNS PHOTO BY SISTER KATHY THORNTON, RSM

Sheila Provencher, center, who spent the last eight months in Iraq as a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, is pictured with young Iraqis in this December 2002 photo.

Speaker gives her take on Iraq as volunteer with peacekeeping group

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, Ohio (CNS) — Participants in the National Young Adult Conference got a personal look at one young American's take on the war in Iraq Oct. 16.

Sheila Provencher, who spent the last eight months in Iraq as a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, spoke about her experiences in Iraq during the Oct. 15-17 conference at Jesuit-run John Carroll University in University Heights.

Provencher recalled standing at an intersection in Baghdad, Iraq with a group of human rights protesters, holding pictures of Iraqi detainees and asking for policy changes and understanding.

An angry Iraqi man approached the protesters and asked them why they were helping terrorists, she said. He shouted at them, asking them why they were not there when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was in power or when he killed the man's family and thousands of other innocent Iraqi people.

Provencher said she was overwhelmed and couldn't hold back tears. She said she told the man she was just one person and there was only so much she could do.

She apologized for the atrocities the man had faced and told him she would pray for him. In response to her compassion, the man also began to cry. They

stood there in the middle of that busy intersection and wept and said they would pray for each other.

Such are the experiences that inspire 32-year-old Provencher and reinforce her call to a life of service.

In December 2002, she joined a two-week delegation to Iraq as part of Catholic Peace Journey. She traveled with other Catholic leaders in meeting with Iraqi physicians, families and children, and religious leaders in an effort to avert the war.

She returned to Iraq last December with Christian Peacemaker Teams, an ecumenical pacifist organization that sends groups of volunteers to places plagued by violence in an effort to bring peace.

Her mission was to meet with religious leaders, military officials and Iraqi detainees and their families to push for policy change and work toward nonviolence.

With the current situation in Iraq, Provencher finds hope in individual encounters with Iraqi people, such as the man at the busy intersection in Baghdad.

LIFTING SPIRITS

Girl Scouts send care packages, receive responses

GREENSBORO — Members of Girl Scout Troop 533 are receiving letters of thanks for sending pieces of "home"-to Americans far away.

While selling their famed Girl Scout cookies last spring, the Scouts, now fourth-graders, asked customers to donate boxes to U.S. military personnel overseas. The troop accumulated approximately 100 cookie boxes in three "Boxes for Baghdad" care packages.

For the third year in a row, the Scouts also sent a care package to U.S. embassy personnel in Tel Aviv, Israel.

"The girls weren't expecting a response," said Margaret Burnham, a mother who assisted her daughter's troop with the care packages. "It was touching for them to receive so many responses to something they did out of the goodness of their hearts."

"Yesterday at mail call here in my

desert outpost, I was surprised to see a huge box addressed to me from St. Pius X Catholic School in Greensboro," wrote Army Cpt. Dan Dutilly, who is stationed in Iraq. Dutilly's relative, Rose Messick, has been active with Troop 533.

"Know that you have touched a lot of soldiers' lives and made their days better here," he wrote.

"The Girl Scout cookies sent to us by your troop were enjoyed by many in my battalion," wrote Sgt. Jacob Poma, a U.S. Marine serving in Iraq. "Small comforts from home keep our spirits high."

"I want to commend you all for your generosity and community spirit," wrote Dorothy Shea, a diplomat at the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and aunt to troop member Madeline Burnham. "Thanks, God bless and DGUOP," she wrote.

DGUOP is the acronym for Troop 533's motto: "Don't Give Up On Peace."



COURTESY PHOTO

Girl Scout Troop 533 at St. Pius X School in Greensboro recently received letters of thanks from military personnel in Iraq for the care packages of Girl Scout cookies sent overseas in the spring. Pictured (back row, from left): Madeline Burnham, co-leader Virginia Alascio, Anastaci Conlon, Anna Kammer, Miranda Wronecki, co leader Martha Barry, Ginger Barry, (front row, from left) Megan Alascio, Emily Judd, Emily Edmonds, Katrina Wronecki.

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Parishioners visit sister parish in Peru

PERU, from page 1

highlands every two years to visit their sister parishioners and see the programs sponsored by St. Pius X Church.

"At every liturgy, we pray for our sister parish and they pray for us. We work together in a collaborative way through ministry and prayer," said Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church and a participant of the recent trip.

"To go down and experience the welcome and warmth of the people and culture strengthens this bond," he said. "It's a transformative experience for those who go. It's a moving, spiritual experience to see the people with whom we've been working and praying."

"We meet with the mayor, the parish priest and the leaders of the Educate-A-Child, Artesanias Pachamas and Comedor programs," said Pratto. "We determine how best to spend the funds we bring, observe the needs we will work on next, listen to the people and hug the children."

Manazo is a small town in the Andean mountains near the Bolivian border. Manazo is more than 12,000 feet above sea level, where the air is thin, said Pratto.

"This year we were fortunate to have a native of Peru, Yuri Romero, travel with us and translate all the greetings and reports," said Pratto. "He helped in our discussions with the (community) leaders."

The St. Pius X Church Peru ministry began about 20 years ago when former pastor Father George Kloster met Sister Barbara Philippart, a Sister of Charity from Cincinnati. Sister Philippart had worked in Manazo for 20 years and



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio watches as Sara Costello, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, gives an envelope with \$5 to the child she sponsors through a collaborative effort with the sister parish in Peru. Below: Parishioner Kathy Harvell sits with her sponsored child, Little Bird. Sister of Charity Barbara Philippart of Cincinnati sits to the left.



started the Artesanias Pachamas, a cooperative of women who spend their days knitting. She taught the women how to improve the quality of their knitting and

guided them in business practices.

Each November, St. Pius X Church sells sweaters, scarves, mittens, dolls and other handcrafts made by the Artesanias Pachamas. After import and export fees and operating costs, all money generated from the sale goes to the women, who

participate in an equitable system of profit sharing.

"The sale provides income for the women that they wouldn't otherwise have," said Msgr. Marcaccio. "They rely on the sweater sale to help feed their families."

The St. Pius X Church group received a report on their contributions to the Educate-A-Child program, which helps children receive uniforms, school supplies and tutoring sessions; and they met with cooks and patrons of the Comedor, a program providing hot lunches to needy children and the elderly.

"The children often walk miles to go to school. The Comedor provides these children with lunch, which they otherwise wouldn't have," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

Students at St. Pius X School also help support the Comedor program. The students are able to forego wearing uniforms on Fridays by making contributions to the Comedor lunch program.

"It makes you appreciate the great benefits that two parishes, miles apart, can receive when they work together," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

Marlene Pratto contributed to this story.

Want More Info?

The Artesanias Pachamas sale takes place at St. Pius X Church Nov. 12-14. For more information, contact the parish at (336) 272-4681.

Peru's new gas system hailed as economic key, but some have doubts

CAMISEA, Peru (CNS) — A new system that will provide natural gas from Peru's southern jungle to domestic consumers is being hailed as key to this impoverished nation's economic future.

But the production facilities and pipeline through the rain forest, as well as new oil drilling in indigenous territory, have highlighted ongoing questions about development projects in fragile environments that are also home to indigenous people.

The project's developers have taken the necessary precautions, said Bishop Juan Larraneta Olleta of Puerto Maldonado, whose apostolic vicariate includes the project and surrounding communities of Machiguenga, Nahua and Nanti indigenous people.

Some indigenous communities along the pipeline right-of-way have complained about erosion and landslides that have fouled rivers and killed fish, threatening their food supply.

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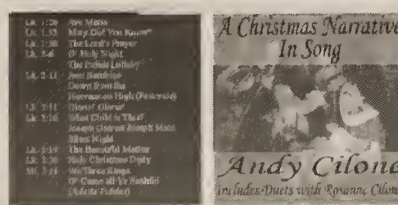


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AROUND THE DIOCESE



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Joan Surber (left) chats with Rose Coffman at the St. John the Evangelist Church Halloween party Oct. 31 as Charlie Surber pours Coffman a cold drink.

Embodying stewardship

STEWARDS, from page 1

"God has been very good to us," Joan Surber said. "It's not an idea of paying back. It's doing something for a friend. If you can help, you do."

"Stewardship is expressed in time, talent and treasure," Charlie Surber added. "They're gifts from God."

The Surbers are grateful that, in their 70s, they are still in good health. So they enjoy helping to set up for the church's Wednesday-night potluck dinners. They are eucharistic ministers and attend daily Mass, praying the rosary with others before the service.

Joan Surber chairs the pastoral council and has been a member of the family affairs committee. They worked on the recent capital campaign to raise money for the new church building.

"They're very generous," said Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan, St. John the Evangelist Church's pastor. "They give totally of themselves."

In addition to all her parish activities, Joan Surber is treasurer for Haywood ProLife.

"We both feel if you belong to something, you should do something," she said. "You really should be active. You have an obligation. We enjoy it."

She helps clean the church and offices while her husband waters the flowers. He used to sing in the choir but now devotes himself to church flowers.

"If you have a talent, you should use it," he said. "I didn't know I would get involved in floral design."

Actually, he got involved some years ago. Out of work as a computer systems analyst in New York City, a friend suggested Surber buy a florist shop in Florida.

He made a success of the business, which he later sold before he and his wife moved to Waynesville 10 years ago. Now, he's designing the church's floral arrangements.

"Any new job is a challenge and an opportunity to learn," he said. "God knows when you'll need it."

He's also interested in film, spending a year making a video record of parish activities.

The stewardship committee, of which Joan Surber is a member, meets monthly to plan various activities and to update the stewardship book. The book has contact information and a brief description of each stewardship group, including lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, Open Door soup kitchen, church cleaning, grounds beautification, maintenance, church library, office help, RCIA, youth ministry, women's circle and the food pantry.

About half of the parish's 200 households are involved in some form of stewardship at the church, Father McGowan said.

"To me it's been really great, watching all the stuff that people get involved in," Joan Surber said, "and all the people you meet."

She added that being active in various parish ministries is a good way to get to know people who don't attend the same Mass she does.

"She keeps an eye out, gets new people involved," Fred Cremer said of Joan Surber.

Cremer, who has been a St. John the Evangelist parishioner for three years, is now starting to head up the family affairs committee. Joan, he said, has "been breaking me in easy. It's a small parish and quite active, a lot of good things going on."

"Just going to Mass and going home isn't enough," Charlie Surber said. "You don't have a parish life unless you get involved."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

Stewards brave hurricane for conference

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The threat of Hurricane Ivan could not stop Christ's disciples from the 2004 International Catholic Stewardship Conference in New Orleans Sept. 12-15.

Eleven people from six parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte were among the 2,000 participants from 11 nations at the conference, brought together to explore and share ideas of fostering the stewardship concepts of giving of time, talent and treasure by Catholics.

Ironically, the disruption the hurricane caused at the conference — the last half-day of the conference was cancelled — benefited those who stayed.

Those participants spent time sharing ideas and resources in the hotel lobby. That personal communication was one of the highlights of the conference, said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte and a speaker at the conference.

"Why re-invent the wheel every time you need to facilitate stewardship?" Gaddy asked. "Everyone was encouraged and willing to share ideas from their own dioceses."

"Each of us gained much from the conference, particularly that making new parishioners feel welcome will in turn lead to greater participation, hence, increasing stewardship," said MaryBeth Conrad, ministry coordinator for St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. "We are working on ways to increase hospitality in our church, and it will require the efforts of everyone."

"Stewardship is an expression of our need to give back out of our gratitude to God for his gifts to us," said Gaddy. "It is not just a program in our churches — it's a way of life."

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Aquinas and Luther on marriage

Clergy, scholars discuss topic at annual conference

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — God created marriage according to his own special design, with certain ends and essential properties, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"Neither the church nor the state can alter the basic meaning and structure of marriage, because God is the author," said Bishop Jugis, speaking at the banquet of the 12th annual Aquinas-Luther conference at Lenoir-Rhyne College Oct. 21-23.

Bishop Jugis was one of several speakers at the conference, themed "Aquinas and Luther on Marriage and Sex," which brought together distinguished scholars, clergy and laity to discuss fresh insights into the thoughts of the Catholic theologian St. Thomas Aquinas and the Protestant theologian Martin Luther.

Sponsored by the college's Center for Theology, the conference was co-hosted by the Hickory Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant Committee, consisting of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, and Mt. Olive, Holy Trinity and St. Andrew's Lutheran churches.

Bishop Jugis discussed the Roman Catholic theology of marriage, reading several passages from the book of Genesis during his talk and listing the ends and the essential properties of marriage.

He said marriage was designed to be an exclusive and permanent relationship between one man and one woman. The purposes of marriage are the mutual assistance of spouses and the procreation



PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Bishop Peter J. Jugis talks with participants of the 12th annual Aquinas-Luther conference at Lenoir-Rhyne College Oct. 21-23.

and education of children, he said.

"No other form of relationship that the human mind can imagine can fit within these parameters," said Bishop Jugis.

Both Aquinas and Luther came to these same conclusions in their writings, said Dr. Janet E. Smith, a professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Smith gave the keynote address at the conference at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Oct. 21.

Both Aquinas and Luther emphasized the importance of marriage and fidelity to protect the welfare of children, women and society as a whole, said Smith.

"If you reach 20, 30, 40 years of marriage, you've done the community a great service," she said. "A marriage that lasts shows that two people have worked very hard at something."

Aquinas instructed that both parents were needed to instruct children for adulthood and bring them up to worship God, said Smith, and that marriage should be indissoluble and exclusive be-

cause it protected the welfare of women.

According to Aquinas, said Smith, if a man divorces his wife to marry someone else after the children are grown, or has more than one wife at the same time, the partnership of marriage is more like slavery.

Smith cited several studies during her talk to support the view that marriage, as it was originally designed, was the ideal for creation. Divorce, same-sex unions, polygamy, premarital sex and contraception all contradict or interfere with this design, she said, and all lead to societal or medical problems.

"Every day I read something that reinforces that natural law," she said.

Conference participants attended other lectures and panel discussions by Dr. Philip E. Blosser, professor of philosophy at Lenoir-Rhyne College; Rev. Richard Niebanck, retired pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; John Pless, assistant professor and director of field education at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Rev. Patrick Henry Reardon, pastor of All Saints' Orthodox Church in Chicago.

The Center for Theology has hosted the conference for 12 years as a means of healing the split between Catholics and Protestants.

According to the center's Web site, the conferences have provided provocative insights into both Aquinas and Luther, including common theological terrain between the two as well as specific points of disagreement that clarify issues most urgently needing reconciliation.

The first conference, held in November 1993, was entitled "Aquinas and Luther: Friends or Foes?" The second conference dealt with Aquinas and Luther on the topic of the most recent international "Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue: The Church in the Light of the Doctrine of Justification."

Other topics covered in recent years included "Morality," "Spirituality," "Authority of the Bible," "Worship," "Holy Trinity," "Justification," "Proclamation: Preaching and Teaching" and "On War and Peace."



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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Signing in prayer



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point use sign language to sign the Lord's Prayer during a ceremony at the school's open house Sept. 30. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders spent several weeks learning to sign the prayer for the event, during which parents visited classrooms to see their children's projects.

Clifford visits St. Leo



COURTESY PHOTO

Popular children's book character Clifford the Big Red Dog visits with Christine Hurley, school librarian, at the book fair at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Oct. 20. The annual fund-raiser helps replenish books, videos and DVDs for the school library.

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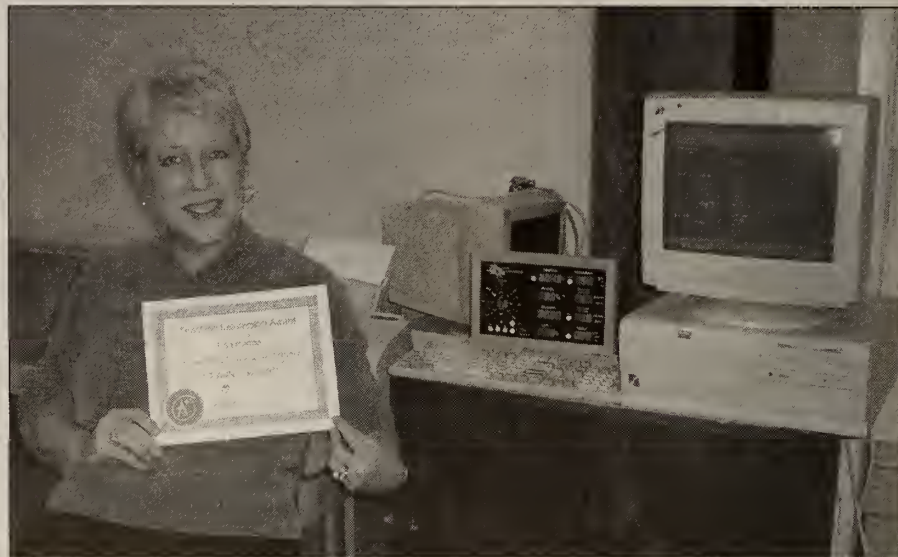
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Teacher receives leadership award



COURTESY PHOTO

Lisa Horton, computer teacher at St. Ann School in Charlotte, displays the Teaching Leadership Award received Oct. 18 from American Weather Service.

Horton implements weather-tracking software

CHARLOTTE — Lisa Horton, computer teacher at St. Ann School in Charlotte, received a Teaching Leadership Award Oct. 8.

The award, presented by John Saaty, senior vice president and general manager of WeatherNet, in recognition of Horton's contributions to the St. Ann School's students and teachers for the 2004-05 year.

Last year, St. Ann School and Providence Day School in Charlotte became the only two elementary schools in Mecklenburg County to install American Weather Service's WeatherNet reporting stations. The instruments, on the roof of St. Ann School, collect weather data and transmit it to AWS, the world's largest private weather network.

The data is shared with more than 6,000 school sites and 100 television stations across the country, including WBTV in Charlotte. In recent months, Horton's students used the technology to track the various hurricanes affecting the Diocese of Charlotte.

In addition to a certificate, Horton received a Lead Teacher Starter Kit for AWS's WeatherBug software for imple-

mentation in the classrooms. The equipment will be tied into the televisions in the fourth- and fifth-grade science classes.

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LIGHTING THE DJEMBE FIRE

Cultural group performs at Asheville Catholic

Students experience African song, music

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students in Asheville recently got another taste of Africa.

In late March, Asheville Catholic School spent a week immersed in African culture with the Shabu family, a cultural arts group working in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina.

The Shabu family returned to the school to present Djembe Fire, a program with drums, song and dance in the school gymnasium Oct. 15. Asheville Catholic School also presented a free performance by the Shabu family that evening at the University of North Carolina at

Asheville.

Several students performed with the family at the university, as well as at a performance during the Lake Eden Arts Festival held at Camp Rockmont in Black Mountain that weekend.

The Shabu family's initial visit was part of the school's yearlong Artists-in-Residence program. The family, originally from West Africa, is the core of the Magic of African Rhythm group, which specializes in various forms of cultural artistic expression, including drumming, singing, dancing and visual artistic expression.

During the school performance



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students dance along with African cultural dancers during a performance at Asheville Catholic School Oct. 15.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

African drumming, music and song were part of the performance by the Shabu family at Asheville Catholic School Oct. 15.

Oct. 15, Maisha "Mama" Shabu told the students they would receive a "taste of a village named Kindia."

The students' "trip" to the village began early in the morning, said Shabu, when the villagers were preparing for the day — men heading into the forest to cut trees; women pounding millet for food, going for water with large bowls, planting seeds and gardening.

"By noon, it is hot, time to relax," said Shabu. "A time to drink cold drinks, perhaps nap."

"As soon as the sun goes down, it is time to celebrate with music."

The Shabu family, performers and "warrior dancers" led the students in song and dance. Several times the performers changed costumes and instruments, including the kora, ngoni and bala.

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Mass for Peace - 7:00 am
Solemn Vespers - 7:00 pm

Friday, November 19
Mass for the People - 7:00 am
School Mass - 8:30 am
Benediction, Eucharistic
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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Benedictine monk on personal crusade to debunk 'The Da Vinci Code'

BY LUCILLE S. UHLMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DENVILLE, N.J. — If you want a good read, indulge yourself in "The Da Vinci Code," a best-selling novel by Dan Brown, Benedictine Father Gerard Lair told a crowd at St. Mary's Church in Denville.

"Just don't believe a word of it," he said.

"This book misrepresents facts and history over and over again, that's why it's so dangerous," said Father Lair.

"Even the title of the book is incorrect," said Father Lair, who noted that artists of that time were generally referred to by their first names, like Raphael and Michelangelo. The book should really be "The Leonardo Code," he said. "Da Vinci only means 'from the town of Vinci.'"

Father Lair is the former abbot of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, in the Diocese for Paterson. Currently, he coordinates continuing education for the Benedictine monks at the abbey.

He often speaks on "The Da Vinci Code" at various places and has made debunking it his personal crusade.

"I'm persuaded that it's so loaded with error it would be helpful for someone to reveal it," he said "I see it as part of my ministry."

The best seller, published in March 2003, is a historical suspense novel full of bloodthirsty conspiracies and unorthodox theories about God, Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

It begins with the premise that Leonardo da Vinci used his art to communicate secret knowledge about the Holy Grail. It then claims that early Christians did not see Jesus as divine and also criticizes the church for keeping secret thousands of texts that detail Christ's humanity.

Father Lair is convinced that one of the reasons for the book's success was the timing of its release, just a few months after Cardinal Bernard F. Law resigned as archbishop of Boston over his handling of the clergy abuse cases.

"We learned of the bishops'

conspiracy of silence on that issue," he said, claiming that realization caused an increased interest in real or imagined conspiracies.

A major premise of the book, the priest noted, is that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and they had at least one child, whose descendants formed a French royal dynasty in the Middle Ages that continues to the present day.

The book asserts that the early church suppressed Christ's marriage and subsequent descendants, but the secret has been kept throughout the ages by a shadowy cult.

"There is no historical basis or documentation for the marriage idea," said Father Lair, adding, "Why would the New Testament writers have held it back? They weren't eye witnesses to the events, and would have been told of the 'marriage' by those who were."

Father Lair explained that the Gospels were written between 70 and 95 A.D. and only attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in 150 A.D. Brown claims that the "secret" was kept because a marriage and fatherhood would emphasize Jesus' humanity over his divinity, and the early church wanted the divinity prominent.

"The book says that Jesus' divinity had to be 'declared' by the Emperor Constantine as a result of the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.," said Father Lair. "In fact, there had been no attempt to deny Jesus' humanity or divinity."

The priest also addressed the issue of Leonardo Da Vinci's 1498 painting, "The Last Supper."

Brown says the figure to Jesus' immediate right in the painting is Mary Magdalene. But according to Father Lair, the writer's theory literally doesn't add up; there are only 13 people in the painting: If one is Mary Magdalene and the central figure is Jesus, which of the Twelve Apostles is missing?

The priest suggests that those who wish to read the book should realize that it is based on faulty or nonexistent scholarship, and that its detractors need not have positive proof of their side of the story.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 14, 2004

Nov. 14, 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Malachi 3:19-20a
Psalm 98:5-9
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
- 3) Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Jesus source of strength in dark times

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I remember my mother telling me during my growing up years that the time was coming when I would have to think for myself and she would not be there to give me advice. Of course, in my more rebellious years I couldn't wait for that day to arrive.

However, I now realize her straightforward wisdom, faith in God and unrelenting love were to form the bedrock of my life.

On Sept. 11, 2001, my job was to explain the unexplainable to a room full of high school students. After all, I was the adult in charge; these young people needed someone who could remain calm and truthful. Even though I felt like crying, swearing, screaming and praying all at once, my silent prayer for wisdom prevailed. As the day wore on, more information filled the void.

I think the realization that we had witnessed great evil in action settled over students and teachers like an enormous pall.

Sitting in my empty room at the close of the day, I thought of my mother who long ago heard the news of Pearl Harbor on a Sunday afternoon. In those days television and the information superhighway were parts of science fiction. In the midst of this reverie, I had one of those "I wish she were here" moments.

If only we could talk about how she survived the war years in southeastern Colorado. How did she cope out in the middle of nowhere, depending on the newspaper from a town 90 miles away to bring the latest news? How did she live with the fear that an Army officer would come to the door and tell her that the brother who survived Pearl Harbor was lost in the Pacific?

This week's reading from Luke's Gospel begins with Jesus warning his listeners that the temple that has been the center of their worship soon will be destroyed. Not only will the actual building come down, but a new understanding of Jesus, himself, will soon emerge. Jesus describes catastrophic events that will culminate in the martyrdom of his followers.

However, he assures his listeners that they will secure their lives — their eternal lives — through perseverance. Jesus makes this promise to those believers of long ago and to us, because of his unrelenting love.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 13

Sunday (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38; **Monday**, Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)**, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; **Wednesday (St. Leo the Great)**, Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:1-19; **Thursday (St. Martin of Tours)**, Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Josaphat)**, 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Frances Cabrini)**, 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 20

Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Malachi 3:19-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; **Monday (St. Albert the Great)**, Revelation 1:1-4, 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude)**, Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)**, Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (St. Rose Philippine Duchesne)**, Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday**, Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday**, Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40.



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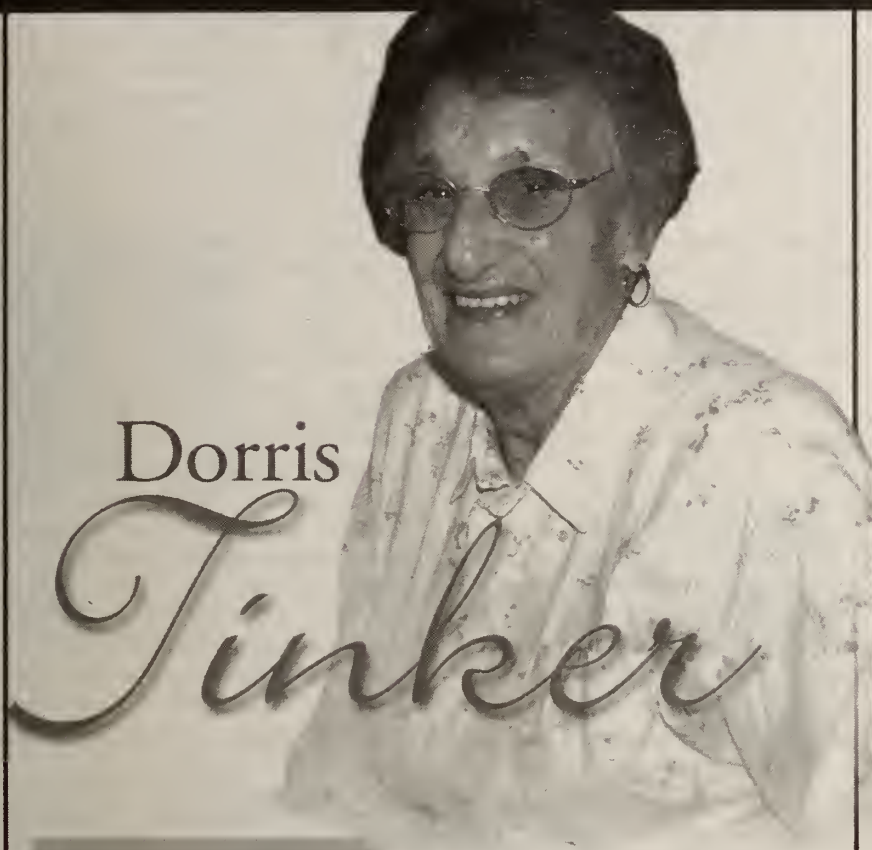
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'Little Flower' blossoms in film about saint's life

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — "Therese" is an earnest, if modest, dramatization of the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, known more affectionately as the "Little Flower."

The film is not so much a textured spiritual portrait of the young French nun considered by Pope Pius X "the greatest saint of modern times" but a series of hagiographic tableaux that may be edifying to many Catholic viewers.

Set in Normandy in the late 19th century, the film opens with St. Therese — then Marie-Francoise Therese Martin, the youngest of five daughters — as a precocious toddler, who even at a young age exhibited an acute spiritual intuitiveness.

A brief prelude establishes the bourgeois Martins as a pious Catholic family. Soon, Therese's mother dies; it is a loss that would have a traumatizing effect on the future saint, prompting her to write in later years that "the earth seemed a sad place."

The movie then catches up with Therese as a melancholy 14-year-old. Still haunted by her mother's passing, and afflicted by an overly scrupulous conscience, Therese plunges towards a breakdown.

The mental collapse is hastened by the abandonment by her older sister and surrogate mother, who leaves home to join the Carmelite order; a farewell which only confirms Therese's despondent view that "life was continuing suffering and separation."

But a Christmas time conversion experience stirs Therese out of her malaise. She becomes consumed with an overwhelming zeal to dedicate her life to helping others.

Challenged by the rigors of cloistered

life and inspired by Christ's counsel to be "like a child," Therese develops insights into a path of spirituality that she calls "the Little Way," a method of living that emphasizes great love over great deeds. Therese saw that God was everywhere, even in the quotidian details of life, and that joy can be found by undertaking each task — however menial — with charity and no expectation of reward.

The film gains emotional traction when Therese is diagnosed with late-stage tuberculosis. The disease would ultimately lead to her untimely death at age 24, but not before she endures months of agony — both physical and spiritual — in which her soul is "invaded by a thick darkness."

It is then that the film lowers its one-dimensional veil of sentimental piety and offers a more visceral glimpse of a flesh-and-blood Therese, with whom viewers of all faiths — or none — can identify. In the face of her suffering, Therese wrestles with all-too-human fears of "death and nothingness," but clings to her faith in God as if to a lifeline over an abyss of despair, as she movingly undergoes her own personal passion.

Financed totally by individual donations, the well-intentioned production is not without some flaws. Nevertheless, the beauty and power of Therese's inspirational life and words still shine through the film's production limitations.

Due to thematic elements involving parental death, and a criminal execution, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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Diocesan priest pleads in Salisbury case

Father Farwell receives 18 months, fine

SALISBURY — Father Richard Farwell, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, pleaded no contest to a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor in Rowan County Superior Court Nov. 2.

Father Farwell had been charged in 2002 with taking indecent liberties with a minor 19 years ago. The original charge, a felony, was reduced to a misdemeanor this week. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation and fined \$1,200.

Father Farwell has not served in ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte since 1998.

In accord with the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," Father Farwell was removed from ministry when allegations of misconduct were made in 2002. Upon learning of the

allegations, the Diocese of Charlotte placed him on administrative leave, removed his faculties as a priest and turned the matter over to civil authorities for investigation.

Removal of faculties prohibits a priest from celebrating Mass in public and from wearing clerical garb.

With the completion of the civil investigation, the diocesan Review Board will now review the matter. The board will make a confidential recommendation to Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who will then make a final determination regarding Father Farwell's status as a priest of the diocese.

Father Farwell was ordained in 1981. He served at parishes in Charlotte, Salisbury and Lincolnton and was working for the Florida-based Food for the Poor organization in 2002 when the charges were filed.

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St. Mary Catholic School is accepting applications for the position of elementary school principal for the 2005-2006 school year. St. Mary Catholic School is located in Rome, Georgia, which is approximately one hour northwest of Atlanta. St. Mary is a PK-8 elementary school enrolling 350 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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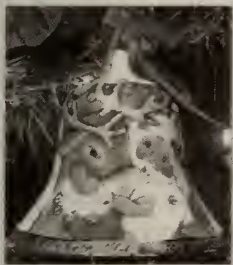
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Much done to protect children, says archbishop

ABUSE, from page 1

abuse prevention policies contained in the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," adopted in 2002.

The review is called for in the charter and the bishops are expected to begin the review at their Nov. 15-18 general meeting and conclude it at their June 2005 meeting.

"A great deal has been done to protect our children and young people," the archbishop said. "My hope is that any modifications (of the charter) will be simply fine-tuning."

"It would be good for other organizations to look at what we have done and the recommendations we have made and to try to do likewise so that more children will be protected," he added.

Aspects of the charter he listed as helping improve child safety include:

— Regular independent audits of diocesan compliance with policies.

— Formation of a lay National Review Board to oversee compliance.

— Having a person available in each diocese to handle incoming complaints about child sex abuse.

— Background checks on church employees and volunteers who work with children.

Archbishop Flynn also strongly defended the "zero tolerance" policy, which says that any cleric who admits to or is proven to have sexually abused a child is permanently removed from ministry.

"For the sake of the church in the United States in this time of our history, I can't really think we can go in another direction," he said.

Although some aspects of the charter — such as audits and the National Review Board — are not required under church law, the bishops have a duty to apply the charter, he added.

Archbishop Flynn said rebuilding confidence in the church involves making the church's prevention policies better known publicly.

Among the issues that need "fine tuning" is ensuring equal protection for

the young and for anyone who is accused of abuse but whose case has not been resolved, he said.

"People have a right to know if someone has been accused in a particular situation; and then, if that accusation is found to be false, equal amount of effort must be put into restoring that person's good name," he said.

Archbishop Flynn defended the need to continue the annual independent compliance audits, but said that there is room to make them more effective.

Another issue being considered by the bishops is whether the church should develop a national data bank of clerics and church employees who have not passed background checks, he said.

The charter also has expanded active lay participation in the church to the "very important area of protection for the young," he said.

He cited the National Review Board and the lay-staffed bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection that were set up to help dioceses comply with the charter. Both are mandated by the charter.

Diocesan requirements for reporting ministry-related sexual abuse of a minor

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.

2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.

3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Election 2004: Have you begun to live again?

Have you begun to live again?

Notice that I didn't ask if you have chosen the right or wrong candidate. Let me clear up the issue by stating that I am not engaging in any partisan politics. St. John calls Jesus the good shepherd, who takes care of his sheep. The main concern of the good shepherd is "that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10). The most basic question is: "Are we really living to the full or half full or on empty?"

It is essential that we try to live in the present, that we not carry around unnecessary burdens from a yesterday that we will never live again or a tomorrow that is not guaranteed. Our God wants us to remember that He is "our today," not only our past and our future.

On the kitchen wall in the Ranch Guesthouse of St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colo., there is a unique plaque, which is very meaningful:

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.

Suddenly God was speaking: "My name is 'I Am.'"

I waited. God continued, "When you live in past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard.

I am not there, my name is not 'I WAS.'

When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard.

I am not there. My name is not 'I WILL BE.'

When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here.

MY NAME IS 'I AM.'

No president will ever make a differ-

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN
AURILIA,
OFM Cap



ence in your life. You and God will.

Let me share two basic truths that I hope will help us begin to live again. Sometime, somehow, somewhere along the way we lose our song, our enthusiasm for life and even worse, we feel that we never really lived before. Then Jesus points the way.

The first truth is simply this: life is meant to be lived, even the ordinary, uneventful and undramatic moments.

One of the great tragedies of the human experience is that many people spend the better part of their lives getting ready to live them. Fathers wait until other obligations are less demanding to become acquainted with their children. Mothers sincerely intend to spend more time with their daughters. Husbands and wives plan to be kinder and more understanding with each other.

When in the world are we going to begin? This is our time. What on earth are we waiting for? When we are paralyzed by tragedy, overcome by obstacles, discouraged by unfulfilled dreams, devastated by loss, threatened

Pope, at audience, discusses Revelation canticle about Christ's death

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II gathered inspiration from the Liturgy of the Hours' evening prayer to concentrate on the death of Christ and how it had turned Christians into "a kingdom of priests."

During his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Nov. 3, the pope recalled how Christ's death is presented as the slaying of the lamb in a canticle from the Book of Revelation. The canticle is included in the evening prayer.

The canticle "concentrates in a particular way on Christ, the lamb, who has been slain but now reigns glorious. In him God's eternal project has been fulfilled," said the English summary of the pope's talk.

Christ, the summary read, "has freed us from evil and made us into a kingdom of priests."

Christians belong to a "community of God's children to which all people are called," it said.

The pope read only part of his talk in Italian.

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



In the talk, he noted that the evening prayer uses the canticle from the Book of Revelation which develops the image of "a lamb that seemed to have been slain" and again where "the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the lamb."

The pope said that at the center of this "chorus of praise" is Christ, "with his work of redemption." This canticle brings "the simplicity and intensity of a chorus of praise," he said.

The pope appeared alert and relatively strong, but appeared at times to make a great effort to continue talking. He touched, blessed and sometimes had a few words for the many people who stopped and knelt before him following the audience.

by intimidating circumstances, or even betrayed and wounded by the selfishness of someone close to us, then it's time to begin to live again.

The second truth is: life is designed to have meaning. At Callaway Gardens, Ga., the Cecil B. Day family has funded a butterfly exhibit and research center. If you go, you will be introduced to the moth with no mouth. It is a species of caterpillar that lays eggs and then changes into a moth that has no digestive system, no way of taking food, so it starves to death in a matter of hours. Once it has fulfilled its reproductive function, it dies.

God did not make human beings like that. We are more than a moth. Meaning in life is not a destination, but a

journey here and now.

There is a legend that goes as follows: The birds were gathered together one day, many years ago, complaining that they had been burdened with wings. These seemingly useless appendages were heavy, bulky and always got in the way. None of the other animals had been asked to bear them.

How surprised they were to learn that their wings were blessings to allow them to soar above the earth and see things none of the other animals would ever see. They had misunderstood a gift to be a burden. The challenge of living today as the first day of our lives will make our yesterdays a learning experience and our tomorrows full of hope.

Life is a song. Sing it today!

The perfect church

People are most critical when least involved

"HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES." REVELATION 3:22. READ REVELATION 2 AND 3.

Contradictions. You would like to take courses in theology, but you avoid going to Mass on Sunday. You only go to church for the baby's dedication, the wedding, the funeral or maybe you work on every church committee you can. You speak of the pastor's new car or you boast of how important your pastor is when you see him in the news. You resent the fact that no one helped that family when they got evicted, or you bought a new outfit to celebrate the parish anniversary program.

We love the church; we hate the church. We get so angry when we think of what's wrong; and yet, we fail to realize how important our love, conviction and forgiveness is for Christ's body of believers.

Some of us seek the perfect church in order to find a place of worship. It is a convenient rationale for avoiding personal commitment and spiritual warfare. We are often most critical when we are least involved. It is easy to criticize fiscal policies when we give less at the church than we do at the restaurant after service.

On the other hand, if we tithe and sacrificially give, we can also criticize with ease, when we fail to have the control that we think we buy.

Jesus had some concerns about the

church as well. However, he took it to a whole new level. He realized what was at stake. That is where he left his power and that is where he left the work of transforming lives, claiming eternal destinies and igniting the world with hope. When Jesus spoke of the church, he meant us believers, whether we realize it or not.

He expects a lot from us, but he gave us a lot to work with.

Jesus loved the church. He gave himself for it. Don't be fooled. The gates of hell will not prevail against God's church. Jesus is the head of the church and every believer has an important role. You are a part of his great plan. If you would like to be a member of the perfect church, stand ready for the return of Jesus. Prepare yourself with love and forgiveness. Be directed by the Holy Spirit. Repent.

That means that you stop doing what you know is wrong. Do what God commands and then watch God. Husbands will come home. Seekers will come forth. Disease, brokenness and evil will

Guest Column

DR. BRENDA
WALL
GUEST COLUMNIST

be cast out. The power of God will be manifest. And, your much needed light will shine in spite of others who may stumble around you.

"AND I SAY TO YOU THAT YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HADES SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT." MATTHEW 16:18

Dr. Wall is a minister and psychologist based in the Dallas and Washington, D.C. areas. Contact her at brenda@drbrendawall.com.

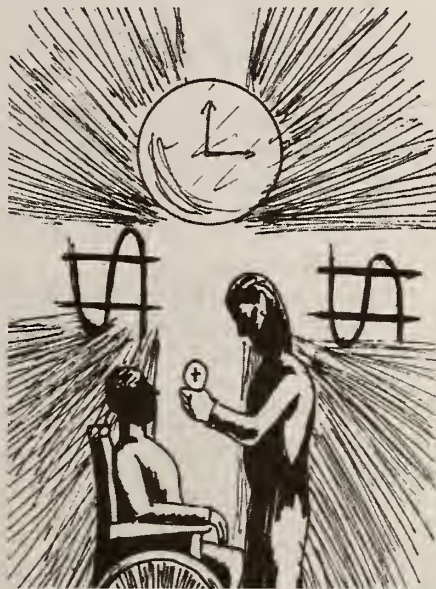
Stewardship Sunday — a time to respond to God's generosity

During my first year as your bishop, I have been privileged to visit more than half of the parishes and missions in the diocese. In each location, I received a warm and hospitable welcome — a true indication that our people embrace stewardship as a way of life.

The wonderful Masses and receptions held in the parishes were the result of countless hours of time and talent donated by many devoted stewards. The young people I have confirmed reflect the dedication of teachers and parents who have spent years helping to form their faith.

I see tremendous growth in the diocese as evidenced by new facilities to accommodate the ever-increasing needs of our parishes. I recognize the financial commitments of parishioners who give generously of their treasure to help build the Kingdom of God in their parishes and the diocese. I have found hundreds of generous stewards who give the first fruits of their time, talent and treasure in service to others.

This year, the diocese celebrates the 16th annual Stewardship Awareness Sunday on Nov. 14. This affords each of us an opportunity to look at our own stewardship of our time, talent and treasure; of our vocations, relationships and environment; and



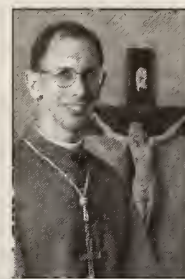
of the Catholic faith that we cherish.

These are all gifts from Almighty God, given for our use during the short time we are here on earth. Our readings for the end of the liturgical season remind us that some day we will all be held accountable for our stewardship of these gifts.

Many parishes use this weekend as a time for renewal of parishioners' stewardship commitments. Other parishes have their renewal efforts earlier in the fall or in the spring. This weekend provides an opportunity to

From the Bishop

MOST REV.
PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF
CHARLOTTE



focus on the meaning of stewardship in each of our lives, in the life of our parishes, and the Church.

I encourage you to take some time today to reflect on your own gifts of time, talent and treasure and give prayerful thought as to how you can best respond to God's generosity. Perhaps it might mean making a concerted effort to improve your prayer life, giving God the first fruits of your time. It could involve taking an inventory of your talents and finding ways to use those talents in service to God through your parish, the diocese or your community. It may mean taking another step to give a proportionate amount of your financial resources in support of your parish, the diocese or other charities.

We all need to ask ourselves what kind of stewards we are of our beloved Catholic faith and of the natural resources God has provided the world in which we live.

Through Baptism we are called to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We must make a conscious decision to follow His way — a way of life that embraces stewardship.

Letters to the Editor

Stem-cell story challenges faithful

I would like to thank you for the well-rounded report in the piece, "Stem cell experts, activists exhort Catholics to understand issues" (Oct. 15).

Four qualities made this an excellent template for future articles of this nature: scientific fact, opposing sides, Catholic Church teaching and our bishop's statement. I find this type of educational publishing to be one of the best approaches to challenging and guiding the consciences of the Catholic faithful.

— Greg Platko
Charlotte

Moral clarity lesson overdue

I want to commend Father Matthew Buettner's column ("Moral clarity in an election year," Oct. 22). If we had this clarity 31 years ago, maybe 44 million people would be enjoying life today. And our country would not be heading for an immoral abyss.

Hopefully, it is not too late for a U-turn.

May God bless you, Father Buettner, and also the United States of America.

— Don Millard
Charlotte

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Making Jesus a superstar

Has Hollywood learned anything from the runaway success of the Mel Gibson film, "The Passion of the Christ?" Can Christians expect to see more films that depict the life of Jesus?

"The Passion" earned more than \$370 million, a figure that tells movie moguls that there are a lot of people who are willing to fork over \$8 to see a film based on Scripture. The original "Shrek" earned only \$267 million and it generated a sequel, so why not a "Passion" sequel? It could be called "The Resurrection" or even "The Nativity." We Catholics know that there is no shortage of excellent Scripture based stories.

Unfortunately the answers to those questions from Tinseltown insider Charlie Carner are, "no," Hollywood hasn't really learned anything from Gibson's success and "no," don't expect to see a surge in movies about Jesus.

Carner is a rarity among filmmakers — he is devout about his Catholic faith. A successful filmmaker, Carner spoke recently to a group of diocesan communication directors at the annual conference of the Academy for Catholic Communication Arts Professionals in Los Angeles. Carner looks the part of a filmmaker. He sports the obligatory southern California tan, his clothes are basic black and he wears three silver necklaces. His best-known film, "Judas," appeared on the ABC television network

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



earlier this year.

Carner's faith based approach to film work is part of a remarkable story of conversion. On Easter Sunday 1991, an accident at a water park left him temporarily paralyzed from the neck down. Even though his paralysis was temporary, he was in therapy for a year.

Carner describes it as a wake up call from God. As soon as he was able to drive a car again, he drove straight to his wife's Catholic church and enrolled in the RCIA class. On Easter Sunday 1992, he was received into the Catholic Church.

Carner is blunt in describing the Hollywood film community as including pagans who are openly hostile to Christianity. "If a miracle happens in a movie, they would rather ascribe it to a crystal ball," said Carner.

Most filmmakers, he said, are part of an out of touch elite who do not pray and don't understand people who do.

When "The Passion" became a megahit — as the 51st highest grossing film of all time — Carner felt that Gibson's faith inspired vision would create a surge in demand for well-made, Scripture-based films. Instead, he said the studios viewed "The Passion" as "a one-off fluke."

Sadly, he said there has been no stampede by writers and directors seeking a green light for a Scripture-based story that can be made into a movie.

Fortunately, Carner puts his faith in his films. In an interview about the movie "Judas," Carner said, "I try to bring my faith to the work in whatever way that I can. In a film like 'Judas' it permeates the whole thing. In other films it is not as upfront, but it's always there. It's just how I see the world, and so it's how I do my work."

A few blocks from the hotel where Carner spoke is the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a mile-long shrine that is Los Angeles' best known tourist attraction. Embedded into the brass and terrazzo stars in the sidewalk are the names of the people who have created the fantasies of the Hollywood dream machine.

In an odd twist, these tributes are located in what is probably the sleaziest area of Los Angeles. Tattoo parlors and adult-oriented businesses line both sides of the street along the walk. Charlie Carner doesn't have a star in the Walk of Fame and perhaps he never will. But he is in good company among the excluded. Mel Gibson's name isn't on the walk, and neither is that of Jesus Christ, Superstar.

St. Joseph of the Hills Church serves vibrant, small community



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden has served Catholics in Rockingham County since 1939.

EDEN — The little church dedicated in 1939 as Joseph of the Hills Church has seen its surroundings transform over the years.

The Mansfield family, originally from Illinois, relocated to Leaksville, N.C. in 1917 when Joe Mansfield's textile company expanded to the western North Carolina Piedmont. The Mansfields were devout Catholics who for nearly 20 years traveled to Greensboro or Danville, Va., to attend Mass.

Beginning in the fall of 1935, priests from Greensboro and Burlington began celebrating Mass in Leaksville-area homes. In 1938, construction of a church began just outside Leaksville in nearby Eden.

St. Joseph of the Hills Church was dedicated on New Year's Day, 1939.

The church's stained-glass windows were donated by several American cardinals, archbishops and bishops. The congregation illustrated the true universal spirit of the Catholic Church in that many of the Catholic families at the dedication represented a variety of ethnic and geographical backgrounds.

A rectory was built in 1940, and in June of that year St. Joseph of the Hills Church was designated a parish, with Father James Noonan becoming the first resident Catholic pastor in Rockingham County.

The textile mill industry brought out-of-state Catholics to the area over the years, although church membership — numbering 51 in 1943 — grew slowly. Catholics from nearby Reidsville, as well as several converts,

SAINT JOSEPH OF THE HILLS
316 Boone Road
Eden, NC 27288
(336) 623-2661

Vicariate: Greensboro
Pastor: Father Thomas Selvaraj
Number of Households: 135



Father Thomas Selvaraj

boosted the growth of the faith in the area as well.

By the end of the 1950s, parish growth has resulted in an expansion: a parish hall was built in honor of former pastor Msgr. Arthur Freeman. Also, in 1962, the Catholic population in Reidsville had grown to such a number that a church being built there was warranted.

Industrial expansion during the 1960s, '70s and '80s continued to bring Catholics into the region. Over time, the St. Joseph of the Hills Church congregation developed a number of parish programs to assist in pastoral and administrative functioning.

In 1985, a larger parish hall was built to provide an assembly area and classrooms.

In addition to the parish council, finance council, faith formation program, family life commission, Knights

of Columbus, Ladies Guild and Altar Society, parishioners also devote time to community projects. The Cancer Society, hospice, The Council on Aging, Salvation Army, Migrant Ministry and Cooperative Christian Ministries all receive assistance from parishioners of St. Joseph of the Hills Church.

While the Reidsville church, Holy Infant, was built in 1962 to serve the influx of Rockingham County Catholics, St. Joseph of the Hills Church continues to reach out to the faithful in Eden, Madison and Mayodan, as well as those in Stokesdale in Guilford County and all of Stokes County. Catholics in Henry County, Va., worship in Eden, as well.

Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara served as the parish's pastoral administrator from July 1996 to July 2001, while Father Joseph Valentine, pastoral administrator of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, and his successors, then-Father Peter J. Jugis, Father John Putnam, Father Christopher Davis and Franciscan Father Louis Canino, served as sacramental ministers for the St. Joseph of the Hills Church congregation.

Since July 2001, Father Thomas Selvaraj, a native of India, has served as the parish's full-time pastor.

To serve the spiritual and cultural needs of the ever-increasing Hispanic population, a Hispanic ministry was inaugurated on March 8, 2003. Retired diocesan priest Father Joseph Waters assists in this ministry.

The Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Guild work earnestly to increase the membership in their respective organizations. The guild also has improved the landscaping of the campus of the 66-year-old church, making it more welcoming.

Father Selvaraj is breaking new ground by joining the "Weekly Lectionary Discussion Group," which consists of area pastors of all denominations.

St. Joseph of the Hills Church continues to serve and to evangelize the multicultural population of the Rockingham County.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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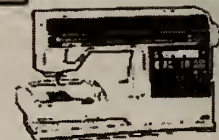
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CNH

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PRAYING FOR PEACE



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Samah Khoury, 23, prays with her nieces, Lur and Yasmin, during Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church in Ramallah, West Bank, Nov. 7. With the possibility of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's death, some Catholics in the West Bank are concerned that extremist Islamic groups might gain strength.

As Arafat ailed, some Catholics feared extremists would gain strength

RAMALLAH, West Bank (CNS) — Amid continuing speculations over Palestinian National Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's deteriorating health, some Catholics expressed fear extremist Islamic groups would gain strength after he dies.

At Ramallah's Holy Family Catholic Church, Father Ibrahim Hijazin acknowledged that one of the main concerns of Christians at the moment is how Islamic groups will react in the face of a power vacuum within the Palestinian National Authority.

"There is this fear for the future as Christians — but there is that fear in Iraq, in Jordan — everywhere in the Arab world," Father Hijazin said Nov. 7.

"What will be after Arafat? Some fear there will be infiltration (of radical Islamic forces). They are fearing there will be some problems (within) the Palestinian Authority which will reflect itself ... especially (on) the Christians," said Father Hijazin.

The Arab Muslim world connects local Christians to what they perceive as the "Christian countries" of the United States and Britain acting in Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

Neveen Halteh, 20, a marketing student at Jerusalem's Al-Quds University and member of Holy Family Church, was not optimistic about change after Arafat.

"They hate us. I am afraid we will not have peace," she said. "Arafat was keeping everything under control, but now he will be gone, and we don't know

what will happen without him."

"Arafat was good with the Christians; maybe those after him will be too, but we can't be sure, so there is fear," said Shadi Hindaileh, a 25-year-old civil engineer and member of Holy Family Church.

"Our good relations are not because of Arafat," said Bernard Sabella, a Catholic and sociology professor at Catholic-run Bethlehem University. "He may have been instrumental in promoting Christian-Muslim relations, but traditionally our experience as Christians living in Muslim lands has been excellent."

Arafat, 75, was flown from Ramallah to a Paris hospital for treatment of an undisclosed blood disorder Oct. 29. After brief reports that his health was improving, it was announced that he had fallen into a coma Nov. 3. He has been on life support since then, and the Palestinian media and spokesmen have been issuing conflicting reports about his condition; at one point, his death was announced.

Arafat, who retains the titles of president of the self-declared Palestinian state and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was able to keep in check the political aspirations of Islamic extremist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

He also was able to distance himself from the charges of corruption that surrounded his deputies and certain Palestinian National Authority officials, thus allowing him to be viewed as a symbol of unity for the Palestinian people.

Cardinal says Catholics must learn about Judaism to know faith

ROME (CNS) — Catholics cannot know their faith, nor even fully understand the Mass, without learning about Judaism, the faith of Jesus and his disciples, said retired Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan.

The cardinal, a biblical scholar who now lives part of the year in Jerusalem, also urged Catholics to pray for peace in the Middle East.

"When there is peace in Jerusalem, there will be peace on earth," the cardinal said at the Nov. 4 conference "Approaches to a Christian Theology of Judaism," sponsored by the Cardinal Bea Center for Jewish Studies at Rome's Gregorian University.

In the Christian-Jewish dialogue, Cardinal Martini said, "that which is at stake touches all Christians," not only in their obligation to promote friendly relations with others, but to understand and appreciate the faith of Jesus, the disciples and the early Christian communities.

The cardinal said that, especially during the Year of the Eucharist Catholics, should learn about the Jewish prayers, blessings and rituals that shaped Jesus' last Passover meal with his disciples and the development of the Mass itself.

"It is vital for the church not only to understand the ancient covenant (between God and the Jewish people), which has endured for centuries in order to launch a fruitful dialogue, but also to deepen our own understanding of who we are as the church," he said.

"It is not enough to be 'anti' anti-Semitism," he said. "We need to build friendships, recognizing our differences, but not allowing them to lead to conflict."

He also said Christians and Jews must work together on concrete projects of charity, justice and peace, creating mutual trust and fulfilling their religious obligation "to give witness to God's love for humanity."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Iris Prandi of Hospice of Charlotte will speak on the "Death of a Parent" Nov. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. in Room C of the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. The loss of a parent as an adult in the single most common form of bereavement in this country. Whether you had a good, bad or indifferent relationship with the parent who died, your feelings for him or her were probably quite strong. This night is for those who have lost a parent or those ministering to the bereaved. For more information, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The next meeting of the *Saint Joseph Society* will be on Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in the reception room of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father John Starzewski, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Church, will be speaking on men as the shepherds of the family. Every husband/father must understand and accept the responsibility of guiding, nurturing and helping the souls entrusted to his care. The Saint Joseph Society is a group of men searching for opportunities for holiness within each of our individual vocations. Men of all ages and faiths are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Kitson at

paxetbonum@mindspring.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is offered in the chapel of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass until Saturday at 9 a.m. Adorers are needed, particularly during the hours of midnight-6 a.m. for more information, call Charles and Bernice Kish at (704) 8 46-7387.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at (704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, meet the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554 0720.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday (TGIF)*, a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., will host a *free Thanksgiving celebration* Nov. 25, 12-3 p.m. in the parish center.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official to Hindus: Feasts encourage action for children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating religious feasts and seeing the joy they bring to children should encourage adults to take concrete action on behalf of the other children in the world who have nothing to celebrate, a Vatican official said in a message to Hindus.

In offering his best wishes to Hindus preparing to celebrate Diwali, a five-day feast beginning Nov. 12, Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, asked for concrete ideas for Hindu-Catholic projects to help suffering children.

The two communities, he said, should “focus our attention on the evils in our society that afflict children: forced labor, forced conscription, the breakdown of the family, trafficking in organs and persons, sexual abuse, forced prostitution, AIDS, the sale and use of drugs, etc.”

“What have children done to merit such suffering?” he asked.

Archbishop Fitzgerald said many Hindu and Christian communities already work together to assist children, “but we could and should do more, as the problem is serious, indeed it is tragic.”

Diwali, also known as the “festival of lights,” is one of the oldest and most important feasts in the Hindu religion. It celebrates the victory of light over darkness and of good over evil.

“Indeed, no celebration truly deserves this name unless a central place is given to children, the more so since the festive spirit requires everyone to acquire a childlike heart,” he said.

Archbishop Fitzgerald encouraged Hindus to enjoy their celebration of Diwali, but to do so keeping in mind the plight of suffering children “in your own neighborhood, in your town, in society in general and, more broadly, throughout the whole world.”

Family and friends are all invited for food and fellowship. Transportation is available for those needing rides. Meal will be delivered to those who cannot attend. Call the church office at (704) 867-6212 for details.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE
GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women announces its annual *Mass of Remembrance* Nov. 18, at 11 a.m. at The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St. Lunch will follow. All ladies are welcome. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Steve Key, director of *Open Door Ministries of High Point*, will speak about his organization at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 605 Barbee Ave., Nov. 19 at 2:10 p.m. The lecture kicks off an IHM canned food drive through Nov. 22 to replenish Open Door's food pantry. Non-perishable, family-sized cans of food can be brought to the lecture or to the school's Administration Building 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Nov. 19 and 22, or to the church at Johnson St. and Skeet Club Rd. Nov. 20-21. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 869-7739.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE
NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details,

call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

SALISBURY VICARIATE
SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE
WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo will present *"Peaceful Prayer in a Busy Season"* Nov. 17 and 24 at 7 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. This is an opportunity for quiet prayer time to escape the mad rush in our lives. For additional information, contact Our Lady of Mercy Church at (336) 722-7001.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope encourages scientists to value the sharing of knowledge

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said scientific researchers always should value the sharing of knowledge over competition and financial gain.

He spoke Nov. 8 to members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, who were meeting in a plenary session devoted to the theme of science and creativity.

The pope said that, in a sense, scientists are called to be “co-creators” with God as they use their knowledge and skill to shape the cosmos in harmony with a divine plan.

Such creativity must be exercised responsibly, he said, for it “demands respect for the natural order and, above all, for the nature of each human being.”

Increasingly, the pope said, scientific progress is seen as the answer to modern problems, many of which have planetary repercussions. As a result, scientists are asked to place their creativity more at the service of the human family, he said.

“If scientific creativity is to benefit authentic human progress, it must remain detached from every form of financial or ideological conditioning, so that it can be devoted solely to the dispassionate search for truth and the disinterested service of humanity,” he said.

He told the scientists that the paths of discovery “are always paths toward truth.”

“And every seeker after truth, whether aware of it or not, is following a path which ultimately leads to God, who is truth itself,” he said.

Remembering the victims



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Margie Boland Balbert of St. James, N.C., prays in front of a new Sept. 11, 2001, memorial during a recent visit to Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury, N.Y. The 12-foot high, black granite cruciform wall is inscribed with the names of more than 400 victims of the terrorist attacks. The memorial, along with a bronze replica of Michelangelo's "Pieta," is in a section that includes the graves of 45 people who perished in the attacks. Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., dedicated the new memorial following an All Souls' Day Mass Nov. 2.

No Liturgy changes due to flu

A recent announcement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops states “the need for the introduction of widespread liturgical adaptations for the prevention of the transmission of influenza in the dioceses of the United States of America is not evident at this time.”

The Precious Blood can continue to be offered in a common cup and parishioners are free to offer one another a handshake during the “Sign of Peace.” But the conference also points out that good hygiene, especially thorough hand washing, should always be practiced, especially by eucharistic ministers.

The conference says “priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be especially reminded of the need to practice good hygiene. Ministers of Holy Communion should be encouraged to wash their hands before Mass begins, or even to use an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion. They should instruct people who feel ill not to receive from the cup.”

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 14-18 — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' General Meeting
Washington, D.C. | Nov. 20 — 10 a.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte |
| Nov. 19 — 7 p.m.
Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury | Nov. 21 — 2:30 p.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte |

Halloween fun



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Sarah Holley, 3, dressed as Snow White, captures a goody while "dunking for doughnuts" at the annual Halloween party at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Waynesville Oct. 31.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LEE STOCKER

High school youth ministry members from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont spent Halloween raising funds for UNICEF.

Youth trick-or-treat for UNICEF

BELMONT — High school youth ministry members from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont provided a "spooktacular" Halloween for UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) by "trick-or-treating" in Belmont and collecting \$250 for the organization Oct. 31.

The United Nations established UNICEF in December 1946 to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China. In 1950, its mandate was broadened to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries. UNICEF became a permanent part of the U.N. system in 1953 when its

name was shorted to the United Nations Children's Fund; however, it retained its original acronym.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

World Community Day explores ways to facilitate peace, action

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Catholic women recently joined other Christian women to reaffirm their work for peace.

"We are a people called to a holy mission — to be instruments of peace," said Rev. Alice Johnson Curl, associate pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. "This is not a call to sit on the sidelines. This is a summons to action."

Rev. Curl spoke at the World Community Day service sponsored by the Hickory chapter of Church Women United. More than 50 people attended the annual service, this year themed "In Faith, Women Shape the Future for Peace," held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Hickory Nov. 5.

Founded in 1941, Church Women United is a Christian women's movement representing 25 million Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women. Coming from more than 15 Hickory-area churches, including St. Aloysius Catholic Church, women came together to prepare the World Community Day and annual World Day of Prayer services.

Carole Marmorato, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church, heads the planning committee for the services.

"Shape, mold, form, have an effect on — these words are action verbs," said Rev. Curl. "They have in them a feel of power."

Rev. Curl encouraged those present to work for peace by keeping informed, supporting organizations that look for peaceful solutions, volunteering at schools, writing to government officials and being a role model for peace in their homes.

"Live peace. Listen. Be kind and supportive," she said.

During the service, participants also heard a dramatic interpretation of the biblical story of Hagar and her son Ishmael, read by Alice Spuller of Corinth Reformed United Church of Christ.

Several women took turns reading peace quotes, such as one from Mother Teresa: "Lead me from death to life, from lies to truth. Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead me from hatred to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe ... peace, peace, peace."

At the start of the service, a procession of women carried symbols of peace to



PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Women bring symbols of peace to place on the altar during the opening procession of the World Community Day service at Bethany Lutheran Church in Hickory Nov. 5.

be laid upon the altar — a Bible, a Torah, paper cranes and a statue of praying hands. Participants were given paper doves on which to write about a situation that was causing them unrest. They then exchanged the papers with someone nearby and agreed to pray for each other.

A reception prepared by members of the participating churches followed the worship service.

Church Women United is recognized as a U.N. non-governmental organization and is the official U.S. committee for the World Day of Prayer, an international celebration that seeks to honor each country's unique prayers, stories and songs. The next World Day of Prayer will be held March 4, 2005.

The organization recently adopted a priority of "Strengthening Families Worldwide in the 21st Century." In conjunction with that theme, participants in Hickory brought donations of supplies needed by Hickory's Family Guidance Center, which offers counseling services for individuals and families.

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FROM THE COVER

Parishioners share annual feast with needy

FEAST, from page 1

Blanche and Al Triunfo and Ann Ketchum, the church secretary, arrived at the parish hall at 8:30 a.m. to put 40 pounds of pork loin in the oven. The Triunfos then brought in the hot sliced pork, while others set up the tables and decorated them with evergreen sprigs, miniature chocolate bars and tea lights in ribbon-bedecked stemmed glasses.

"I'm so busy with what I do that I don't get to meet a lot of people," said Terri Van Dyck, a professional porcelain artist. "Everybody needs a little 'TLC,' a little love."

St. Margaret, who was queen of Scotland 1070-1093, gave plenty of tender loving care to those she met. She frequently fed the hungry, and she and her husband, King Malcolm, daily helped those in need. One account says that they "waited on Christ in the person of his poor."

A picture in St. Margaret of Scotland Church's vestibule shows Margaret, one arm around one of her own eight children, spoon-feeding an orphan.

At the Nov. 7 dinner, some 70 St. Margaret of Scotland parishioners and about 60 Open Door clients filled the dining room, mingling at the tables. The facility averages 50 people for lunch daily.

Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, St. Margaret of Scotland Church's pastor, spoke about the reason for the special dinner and Margaret's love of gathering people together to dine. All, no matter where they come from or who they are, are gathered in Christ this night at the Open Door, he said.

"I just thought it was great," Ketchum said. "What really im-

"It was a beautiful blend of Christian love, and it felt so natural the way the church family and the clients were able to mingle."

pressed me was the way the parishioners intermingled (with the clients). With St. Margaret of Scotland being our patron saint, I hope we do it again next year."

As parishioner Don White played dinner music on the piano, Marie Bartholomew, Mary Ann Yurko, Shirley Hillyer and Father Doyle joined others to serve the food.

"It was terrific, the service was great," said Donnie Davis, a regular at Open Door lunches.

"It was a good idea. I always enjoy getting together," said parishioner David Schumm. "You get to know a few more people each time. If you go and meet even one person you can be friendly with, it's a good idea. I thought it was a great success."

"It was a beautiful blend of Christian love, and it felt so natural the way the church family and the clients were able to mingle," said Perry Hines, who, with wife JoAnn, directs Open Door Ministries. "They were really able to click. We were one; there were no distinctions. It was really, really beautiful."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Don Loetz holds the pan as Gloria Geasland sprinkles cheese on seasoned roasted potato wedges for the St. Margaret of Scotland Church dinner Nov. 7, held this year at the Open Door soup kitchen in Waynesville.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Ron Van Dyck and Marie Bartholomew share a laugh while checking the coffee.

In addition to the food, it was the chemistry that was there."

"I think Margaret would be pleased with what we did and what we received," Father Doyle said. "Ev-

eryone had a good time. We received more than we gave."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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ELECTION ROUNDUP

After the election: soothing bitterness, analyzing votes

ELECTION, from page 1

and the need — the desperate need — for unity, for finding common ground and coming together. Today, I hope we can begin the healing.”

Later in the day in a speech in Washington, Bush pledged to seek the support of Kerry's voters during his second term.

“America has spoken, and I'm humbled by the trust and the confidence of my fellow citizens,” he said. “With that trust comes a duty to serve all Americans. And I will do my best to fulfill that duty every day as your president.”

Calling for solidarity

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles was quick to offer his congratulations to Bush after Kerry conceded to the president the day after the election.

“The partisan rhetoric of the campaign must now give way to a genuine commitment to bipartisanship and to a partnership for the common good,” the cardinal said in a statement.

He said all Americans must work together with the administration and Congress to strengthen the nation's moral principles, promote human dignity, nurture the stability of families and assist those who are hungry, lack health care or need jobs.

Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali issued a statement congratulating Bush and expressed his best wishes to Kerry.

But he also called on Americans “to come together to support the president as he leads the United States during the next four years.”

“As citizens we may differ in our views but agree that we want what is truly best for each other, for our country and for the world,” Cardinal Rigali said.

He said he and his brother bishops “will strive to work with the president as he deals with difficult issues facing our nation.”

Meanwhile, even before the final vote tallies were in, the campaigns, pollsters and social scientists were deconstructing the results for clues about why people voted the way they did.

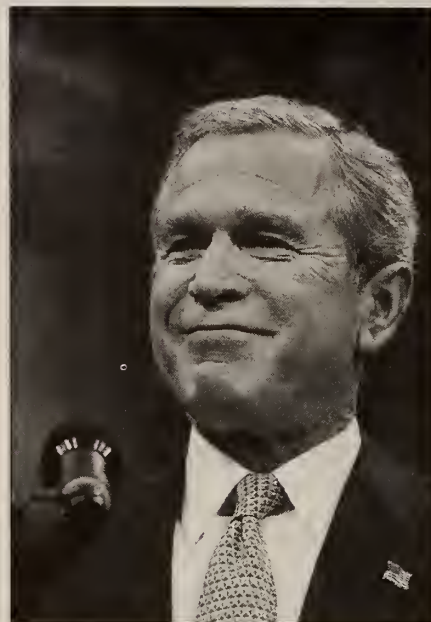
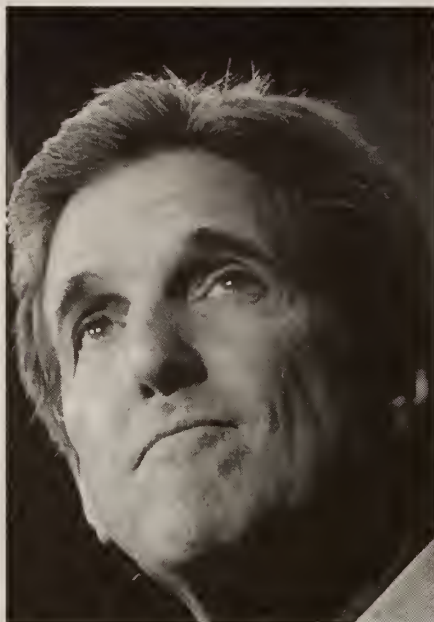
The Catholic vote

Despite extensive attention to the role of religion in the lives of the presidential candidates this year — particularly criticism of Kerry from within his own Catholic Church — exit polls showed Catholics apparently voted much the same as the overall population.

Nationwide, about 51 percent of voters chose Bush, compared to 48 percent who voted for Kerry. Among all Catholics, who make up 27 percent of the electorate, Bush got 52 percent of the vote compared to 47 percent for Kerry.

An analysis by John Green, head of the Bliss Institute for Applied Politics at the University of Akron in Ohio, and Steven Waldman, founder of the online magazine Beliefnet, found that Catholics in the battleground states of Florida and Ohio turned out more strongly for Bush than for Kerry.

In Ohio, the analysis found that 65 percent of Catholics who attend church



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Above left: Sen. John F. Kerry concedes the U.S. presidential election to President George W. Bush in Boston Nov. 3. Above right: Bush smiles during his victory rally in Washington Nov. 3. Bush gave his victory speech after Kerry called him to concede the election.

weekly voted for Bush and 35 percent of them voted for Kerry. Nationwide, 56 percent of Catholics who said they go to church weekly voted for Bush, compared to 43 percent for Kerry.

Green and Waldman said 58 percent of voters nationwide from all faiths who attend church once a week voted for Bush. Those who attend church less frequently were more likely to vote for Kerry.

The exit poll study also reported high turnout particularly for Bush among what they defined as white evangelical or born-again Christians. They constitute 23 percent of the electorate, and 78 percent voted for Bush while 21 percent voted for Kerry.

Protestants — including both evangelicals and members of mainline denominations — make up 54 percent of the electorate; 59 percent of them voted for Bush, compared to 40 percent for Kerry.

Defining moment

Years from now, historians might point to a specific moment in the 2004 campaign when the tide turned in favor of Bush over Kerry.

It was early July, two weeks before the Democratic convention, and Bush was speaking out in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would amend the U.S. Constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

“Because families pass along values and shape character, traditional marriage is also critical to the health of society,” Bush said in his July 10 national radio address. “Our policies should aim to strengthen families, not undermine them. And changing the definition of traditional marriage will undermine the family structure.”

Some had warned that it was unwise for Bush to put such emphasis on what they viewed as a divisive social policy when voters cared more about Iraq, the war on terrorism and the economy.

“Our analysis of the swing voters shows that they are concerned about Iraq and about the economy, and I

don't think they are likely to be swayed, or have strong feelings, about a constitutional amendment,” Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, told *The New York Times* back in July.

“If anything, they may see it as putting the emphasis on the wrong place when the country has other problems,” said Kohut.

But 22 percent of all voters across the United States picked “moral values” as the most important issue facing the nation, followed by the economy and jobs (20 percent) and the war on terrorism (19 percent). Eighty percent of those who saw moral values as the most important issue voted for Bush, according to post-election data released by the National Election Pool.

Eleven state ballots included measures similar to the Federal Marriage Amendment, revising state constitutions to limit marriage to its traditional definition. The measure was approved in all 11 states, including Ohio, where a Bush win secured his victory in the Electoral College, and eight other states won by Bush.

“Clearly the supporters of traditional marriage helped President Bush

down the aisle to a second term,” said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

Kerry said during the campaign that he favored restricting marriage to heterosexual couples, but opposed achieving that through the constitutional amendment process.

Catholic leaders nationally and in the states looking at the issue this year had called nearly unanimously for approval of the federal and state amendments.

Only Oregon and Michigan voters approved the amendment to ban same-sex marriage but chose Kerry over Bush. In each of those states, according to the National Election Pool data, voters picked something other than moral values as the most important election issue. For Oregonians it was the war in Iraq, and for those in Michigan, it was the issue of the economy and jobs.

Transcending boundaries

At a post-election discussion Nov. 4, John Kenneth White, politics professor and director of the Life Cycle Institute at The Catholic University of America, said that in some ways the Massachusetts Supreme Court handed Bush's campaign the issue it needed to succeed in this election.

The court's decision gave Republican strategists and activists an issue that energized people to come out to vote to pass the marriage initiatives and also support Bush, he said.

Matt Daniels, president of the Alliance for Marriage, said the marriage initiatives brought Bush “a critical bump in support among core Democratic voting groups” that favored the amendment, including African-Americans, Catholics and women.

“Among African-American voters in Ohio alone ... President Bush nearly doubled his support over the 2000 election, from 9 (percent) to 16 percent,” Daniels said.

Bush “also improved his support among Catholics and women by 5 percent,” he added. “Indeed, America demonstrated broad-based strength and momentum for our Federal Marriage Amendment — strength and momentum that transcends all racial, cultural and religious boundary lines.”

Contributing to this story was Nancy Frazier O'Brien.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. John McSweeney dedicates the home built by Habitat for Humanity volunteers from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. The house is the third habitat house the parishioners have built.

Constructing homes

HABITAT, from page 1

tion. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 175,000 houses. Now at work in 100 countries, Habitat builds a house every 26 minutes. By 2005, Habitat houses will be sheltering 1 million people.

In Charlotte, Habitat houses now provide shelter for more than 500 families. St. Matthew Church is one of many

area churches involved in building houses through Habitat for Humanity.

On Nov. 6, Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church, dedicated the future home of Ylueng Rcom and his family. The small house is one of 34 houses built by Habitat for Humanity in the Rainbow Ridge development of Matthews.

So far, St. Matthew parishioners have sponsored three Habitat houses. More than 194 volunteers contributed 2,266 hours to build the Rcom house.

"We as a community feel Habitat for Humanity is very important as an outreach project," said Msgr. McSweeney. "We benefit as much as the recipients."

St. Matthew Church's participation with Habitat for Humanity projects comes out of the financial and pastoral council's missions and is included in its three-year parish plan.

"This community outreach program would not have been possible without Msgr. McSweeney's financial commitment for this project," said Bob Desch, publicity coordinator for St. Matthew Church's Habitat for Humanity sponsorship committee.

"We would not have been able to complete the project without the skilled volunteers who donated their time to provide direction or to complete those aspects of the project requiring their specific talents," he said.

Habitat houses are purchased by the homeowner families. Three factors make the houses affordable to low-income people worldwide: houses are sold at no profit, with no interest charged on the mortgage; homeowners and volunteers build the houses under trained supervision; and individuals, corporations, faith groups and others provide financial support.

Homeowner families are chosen according to their need, their ability to

repay the mortgage and their willingness to work in partnership with Habitat. Habitat for Humanity does not discriminate according to race, religion or ethnic group.

Volunteer builders install framing, roof decking, insulation, drywall, exterior siding and paint. Professional subcontractors are hired to complete heating, air conditioning and electrical work, to pour concrete and lay floor covering.

Each house takes approximately 13 weeks to complete, with the majority of work being performed on Saturdays by volunteer work crews.

"Our work with Habitat for Humanity continues the themes of social justice and good stewardship through sharing our treasures of time, talent and treasure," said Msgr. McSweeney.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottedioese.org.

OUTSTANDING EFFORTS

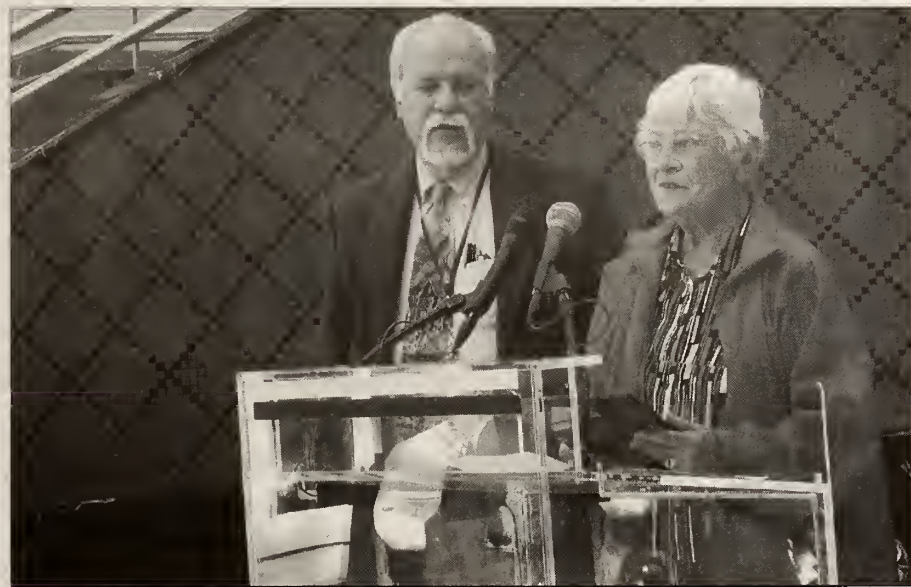


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Matthew Church was recognized as the outstanding congregation at the Homeless Service Network 2004 awards luncheon in Founders Hall in uptown Charlotte Nov. 10. The church received the award for the work its parishioners contribute to various homeless ministries in the Charlotte area, including the Uptown Men's Shelter, Emergency Winter Shelter and A Child's Place.



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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, joins members of the parish's Health Team Ministry at Charlotte Community Health Clinic Oct. 21. The team of volunteers will help staff the clinic to provide medical care to low-income, uninsured adults in Mecklenburg County.

Parishioners staff clinic

CLINIC, from page 1

new working relationship, part of a pilot program involving parish volunteers, was celebrated during a gathering at the clinic Oct. 21.

"We needed people in the community who wanted to help make a difference, so we went to St. Gabriel Church," said Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, the clinic's medical director.

During the gathering, Father Edward Sheridan, pastor, blessed the partnership through prayer and Dr. Paul O'Bar, St. Gabriel Church's health ministries coordinator, formally recognized the parish volunteers serving on the "Health Ministry Team."

"This is a chance for us to do mission work without leaving town," said O'Bar. "A lot of people will volunteer if you give them something to do."

The clinic, a nonprofit organization established in 2000, provides free medical care, assistance with medications and health care education to low-income, uninsured adult residents in Mecklenburg County. Outside of a small administrative staff — four full-time and three part-time — the clinic on Eastway Drive relies on volunteers willing to donate their time and abilities without pay.

Volunteers from St. Gabriel Church staff the clinic one day a week to provide a broad range of medical services. They will serve as physicians, nurses, office support and interpreters for non-English-speaking patients.

"We'll be seeing patients as we would in any medical office," said Dr. John Davenport, a member of the parish's Health Ministry Team.

"Their team staffs the clinic for the whole night," said Ruth Huey, the clinic's nurse manager and member of the diocesan Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging. "They're very reliable, have a real positive attitude and bring that spirit of our ministry to our clinic and our patients."

"Part of our purpose (as Catholics) is to reach out and help people in need," said Father Sheridan. "Those using this clinic are in need for a lot of reasons."

Davenport said the clinic sees patients without regard to insurance or legal status.

"They don't have to provide citizenship," he said. "They're just people who need quality health care."

"I see a strong need in the community," said Enrique Escobar, a St. Gabriel parishioner serving as a translator for Spanish-speaking patients. "Many people have no insurance. We need to help the community."

"I like to help, and this is a way of giving something back," he said.

According to information supplied by the clinic, there are approximately 90,000-100,000 uninsured people in Mecklenburg County. Due to contributions through Presbyterian Hospital, United Way of the Central Carolinas, individuals and church donations, the clinic is able to meet the demand for medical care.

"We are thrilled that St. Gabriel

Joined in faith



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Members of the Golden Wings seniors group from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte join hands with Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, during a meeting at Msgr. West's home Nov. 2. The Golden Wings meet monthly to share spiritual and social activities and to enjoy a meal together.

Church was willing to be a pilot project to see if we can do a ministry this way," said Nancy Hudson, the clinic's executive director.

The volunteers from St. Gabriel Church allowed the clinic to expand to seeing patients by appointment only on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Hudson hopes that by having volunteers from St. Gabriel Church staff the clinic, other area churches will be willing to supply volunteer help on other nights.

"It's wonderful to say that we have St. Gabriel Church. It sets a precedent in the community," said Hudson. "When

we add a new group, we'll add new clinics (on other days)."

The clinic is looking for volunteers available as physicians, nurses, certified medical assistants, pharmacists, phlebotomists, dieticians and social workers, among others. But volunteers without medical training are welcome as well.

"There's something for everyone — clerical work, answering the phone, translating," said O'Bar. "Everyone will have something to contribute."

WANT MORE INFO?

The clinic sees uninsured patients by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call (704) 316-6561.

To volunteer, call Kate Satchwill, volunteer coordinator, at (704) 316-6553.

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Breaking the cycle of poverty

CCHD collection aids local, national programs

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — America's 51st state has a population of 34 million people — nearly equal to that of California, the most populous. Its residents live in the slums of New York City and Baltimore, the mountains of North Carolina and West Virginia, and the desert plains of New Mexico and Arizona.

Residents of this 51st state live in "Poverty USA" — as it is called by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

Nine million Poverty USA residents are employed, and 2.6 million of those hold full-time jobs. The United States federal government sets the poverty annual income level at \$18,392 for a family of four.

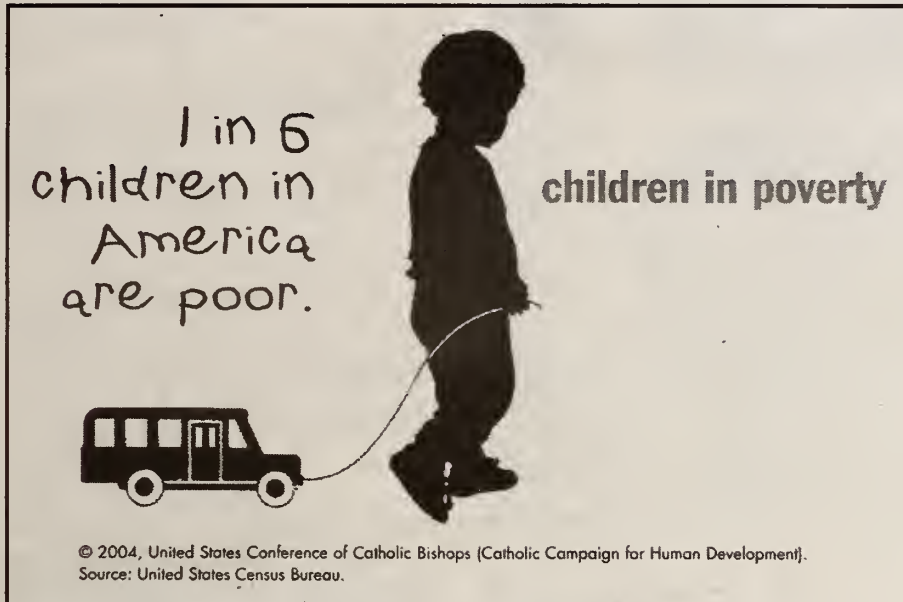
One-sixth of all children in the United States live in poverty, among the highest rates of industrialized nations.

Breaking the cycle of poverty in the United States is a primary concern for the U.S. Catholic bishops. CCHD is their domestic anti-poverty, social justice program. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in the United States through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and education.

"CCHD was a program originally designed to alleviate poverty," said Terri Jarina, program director for parish social ministry for Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, in the Diocese of Charlotte. "Over time, the bishops of the United States realized poverty is a bigger problem than originally thought, and their focus shifted to breaking the cycle of poverty."

CCHD supports local groups involved in creating jobs, improving neighborhoods, training adults for employment at a living wage, keeping schools safe and enriching for children, and raising leaders for the future.

The success of CCHD is due in large part to Catholics parishioners whose contributions to the annual appeal have made meeting CCHD's objectives possible over the years. Eighty-five cents out of every dollar received by CCHD



goes directly to community empowerment, economic development and education programs that work to break the cycle of poverty.

This year's collection in the Diocese of Charlotte will be taken up during Masses the weekend of Nov. 20-21.

In 2003, the diocese had a 24.7 percent increase in donations over 2002, and was the third-highest diocese in the nation for per-Catholic giving. Catholics in western North Carolina, on average, donated 81 cents each, for a total diocesan collection of \$162,526.

"This money easily helps thousands of people through the three national and 20 local grants the collection helped to fund in 2003," said Jarina.

Approximately 75 percent of the collection will be distributed to the national CCHD office, while the balance will remain in the Diocese of Charlotte for local grants.

According to Jarina, the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace examines social action in addition to acts of charity, to learn why poverty happens and determine how to overcome it.

Although a number of factors contribute to poverty, lack of education is the primary cause in perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

"Education is the most critical divide between a lifetime of poverty and the opportunity to escape poverty," said Katherine Newman, Ph.D., professor of urban studies at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Business. "High school dropouts are almost guaranteed a lifetime of living in poverty."

"CCHD looks at how money awarded through grants can help keep people from sliding back into poverty," said Jarina.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail karevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

The 2004 CCHD collection will be taken up during Masses the weekend of Nov. 20-21.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: www.usccb.org/CCHD

Poverty USA: www.povertyusa.org

CCHD grant applications will be available Dec. 1, 2004 from the Office of Justice and Peace. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2005. Call Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234 for more information.

Winston-Salem Sponsoring Committee (\$30,000): Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment (CHANGE)

2004 CCHD LOCAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Total = \$37,206.48 awarded 3-27-04

Accessibility for All, Asheville (\$1,000): Helping people with disabilities gain access to services and support.

Caring for our Community, Polkton (\$1,500): Focusing on children's safety and juvenile crime prevention.

Centro de Enlace, Bumsville (\$1,500): Encouraging cultural interaction and enrichment through language and crafts.

Domestic Violence Services, Hayesville (\$1,000): Seed money to facilitate independent nonprofit status.

East Side Improvement Association, Asheboro (\$2,000): A safe haven for at-risk youth to participate in enrichment.

Ellerbe Hispanic Center, St. James Church, Hamlet (\$2,500): A center in Ellerbe to meet the social, welfare and religious needs of the Hispanic population.

Experienced Articles Thrift Store, St. Michael Church, Gastonia (\$1,000): Providing emergency and life-skill assistance to the area's low-income residents.

Grupo de Mujeres, Brevard (\$3,000): Addressing isolation and lack of education among area Hispanic women.

Las Mariposas Project, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill (\$1,500): Facilitating after school tutoring and summer religious programs for Hispanic families.

Latino Outreach and Solidaridad Housing, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin (\$1,500): Providing safe and affordable housing for the growing Latino population in Macon County.

Montagnard Agricultural Project, Seagrove (\$1,500): Modern agricultural technique training for newly arrived Montagnard refugees.

Multicultural Resource and Advocacy Center, Waynesville (\$1,500): Providing services to assist new immigrants.

New Choices, Strategies for Success, Asheville (\$2,000): Childcare for children of women who are striving to be self-reliant.

Project Team Development, Asheville (\$3,500): Community organizing among Asheville churches for worship, fellowship and advocacy.

Rattlesnake Ridge Project, Robbinsville (\$1,000): Income generation using Appalachian native plants.

Rise and Shine Summer Freedom School, Brevard (\$2,206): Structured summer activities for area latch-key children (ages 5-10).

Smoky Mountain Native Plants Association, Robbinsville (\$1,000): Income generation using Appalachian native plants.

Stecoah Valley Weavers, Robbinsville (\$3,500): Teaching local residents weaving skills so they can earn supplemental income.

Thomasboro Community Building Project, Charlotte (\$3,000): Technical support to empower neighborhood residents.

Youth Employment Support, Asheville (\$1,500): Providing employment support for at-risk youth.

2004 CCHD NATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Total = \$85,000.00 awarded 6-13-04

Center for Participatory Change, Asheville (\$35,000): Organizing for Racial Justice

Helping Empower Local People (HELP), Charlotte (\$20,000): Campaign for Families

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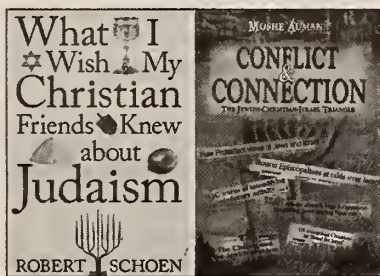
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Two books on Christian-Jewish understanding

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Robert Schoen says that "What I Wish My Christian Friends Knew About Judaism" grew out of his desire to answer the many questions Christians asked him over the years. No doubt Catholic publisher Loyola Press also saw the need for some answers to Christian curiosity.

Schoen finds this curiosity quite natural because, as he rightly notes, Judaism and Christianity stem from the same roots in biblical Israel, and Christianity was in its beginnings a Jewish movement. This common rooting explains the origins of many Christian beliefs and religious practices, he says.



His chapter, "Going to Church," illustrates something of the deep connections Christian liturgy has even today with Jewish liturgy, ranging from the close parallels in the wording of our prayers, such as the Our Father and the Kaddish, to the rituals and symbols (bread, wine, water) through which we encounter the divine.

Then he takes the reader "Inside the Synagogue" for a tour that includes the role of the cantor and rabbi, Jewish education, Jewish priests and how Jews confess their sins.

In the section "Who's in Charge?" he explains that the answer is no one person, such as the pope. He explains Jewish religious festivals and life-cycle events, along with issues of what it is like to be a Jew "in the world" outside the synagogue and Jewish home.

Schoen is a genial and often humorous guide — or sherpa — through the complexities of Jewish religious groups, from Orthodox and Reform to Conservative and Reconstructionist Judaism.

At the end he calls for Jews and Christians to "make this often-troubled world one of peace and harmony." The book contains a glossary of Jewish terms and a list of recommended readings.

Moshe Aumann's "Conflict and Connection: The Jewish-Christian-Israel Triangle" will be of great interest to anyone taking part in or wishing to understand the contemporary dialogue between Christianity and Judaism.

Aumann first became interested in the story when he served, from 1987 to

1990, with the Israeli Embassy in Washington as its liaison with the Christian churches. He narrates the story well, giving an excellent overview of the parting of the ways between church and synagogue in the early centuries and historical encounters since.

Aumann then describes what he calls a "sea change" in the relationship that took place after the Second World War and the Holocaust, singling out the Catholic Church as "a special case" not only because of its size but also because it has played since the 1960s "a pioneering role in instituting the theologically wrenching revisions in those doctrines that have moved other major Christian churches to follow in its footsteps."

As one who has attempted to navigate those changing seas for almost three decades with the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, I can attest to the accuracy of his analysis of the events and documents (many of which he includes in an appendix) of the period he covers.

Aumann speaks of three lingering problems: anti-Semitism, Christian missions to the Jews, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Once again he singles out the Catholic Church for leadership in responding to these continuing challenges.

In his conclusion, he addresses the Jewish community, calling for a response commensurate with the tremendous movement toward the Jewish people on the part of Christians.

Fisher is an associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, where he works on relations between the Catholic and Jewish communities.



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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 21, 2004

Nov. 21, Christ the King

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalm 122:1-5
- 2) Colossians 1:12-20
- 3) Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Power of prayer is power of God

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

During a spirituality seminar I attended recently, there was a discussion about the power of prayer. People shared wonderful stories — a few were about poignant spiritual encounters, but most were about miracles resulting from earnest, persistent prayer or the combined prayers of many people for the same cause.

I understood that the storytellers were relating their gratitude for God's deliverance from their suffering.

Then came the plaintive question: "But when my sister's little son was suffering so much, we prayed and prayed, but he wasn't saved. What about our prayer?"

It reminded me of a comment I once heard from a wise, very spiritual woman: "People talk about the 'power of prayer,' but that's not really what it is. It's the power of God."

Supernatural events don't happen as a result of human will — a miracle doesn't take place because a person prays hard enough, or long enough, or if enough people pray for it. The human will alone is just not that strong. Since the beginning of humankind we've always had difficulty believing that we ourselves don't, somehow, author life.

In this weekend's Gospel story, the rulers, soldiers and one of the criminals are caught in that fallacy. Jesus the man is the holiest one they've ever seen. If he's so powerful, he ought to be able to save himself from death.

But Jesus knows that his human will — however strong — cannot save him from death. Conforming his will to the Father's is all he can do.

That is what brings ultimate salvation. That is the power of prayer: By conforming our will to God's, we enter into the divine life, the kingdom of God, something much greater than anything we might humanly want to "save."

The other criminal recognizes this power of God in Jesus' accepting God's will and shows us how to pray to Jesus to draw us to himself and the reign of God.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 20

Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Malachi 3:19-20, L2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; Monday (St. Albert the Great), Revelation 1:1-4, 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; Tuesday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude), Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; Wednesday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary), Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; Thursday (St. Rose Philippine Duchesne), Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; Friday, Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; Saturday, Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21 - NOVEMBER 27

Sunday (Christ the King), 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; Monday (St. Cecilia), Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4; Tuesday (St. Clement I, St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Pro), Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; Wednesday (Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions), Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; Thursday (St. Catherine of Alexandria, Thanksgiving Day, USA), Sirach 50:22-24, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Luke 17:11-19; Friday, Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2, Luke 21:29-33; Saturday, Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36.

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In truth, the only reality TV is

news and documentaries. Maybe more people would watch them if they got hung with the “reality” tag.

When you keep your eye on TV, what do you see? What are your likes or dislikes? What are your concerns and criticisms? Be as general or as specific as you wish. Send your comments to: Mark Pattison, Media Editor, Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St., NE, Washington, DC 20017.

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LITTLE TIGER

Third-grade golfer sinks competition

HIGH POINT — Tanner Owen, a third-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, became the national champion for the 7- and 8-year-old division in the Mutual of Omaha Drive, Chip & Putt Junior Challenge, held in Orlando, Fla. Oct. 23.

More than 30,000 boys and girls ages 7 to 14 participated in the event, playing in local and regional tournaments across the United States and Canada to earn a chance to compete in the national tournament.

Tanner competed with 21 other regional finalists to win his title.

Tanner, son of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church parishioners Vicki and Kevin Owen, also recently won the National Junior Golf Club's Future Pro of the Year award in the 6 to 9-year-old age group. With a stroke average of 76, Tanner has earned first place in six North Carolina golf tournaments hosted by the club this year. He also has won second place in the club's Southeast Regional Tour Championship in South Carolina.



COURTESY PHOTO

WANT TO WATCH?

Tournament highlights will be broadcast on The Golf Channel at 12:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.



COURTESY PHOTO

Four eighth-grade students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point receive awards for participating in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's Respect Life Essay Contest. Pictured from left are Niall Moreira, Respect Life Committee Chair Don Mulligan, Josie Rathburn, Brittany Spear, Aaron Pugh and English teacher Lynn Hamilton.

Church's essay contest winners announced

HIGH POINT — Winners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's Respect Life Essay Contest are Brittany Spear, first place; Josie Rathburn, second place; and Niall Moreira and Aaron Pugh, tied for third. All are eighth-grade students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point.

The contest was sponsored by the church's Respect Life Committee and held in honor of Respect Life Month in October. Students chose topics from a list of specific issues and each had to defend his or her position on that issue.

Spear, daughter of Bob and Jeanine Spear of Colfax, wrote about in vitro fertilization. Rathburn, daughter of David and Joan Rathburn of High Point, wrote her essay on assisted suicide. Moreira, son of Roy and Geraldine Moreira of Jamestown, wrote about euthanasia. And Pugh, daughter of Richard and Rebecca Pugh of High Point, wrote her paper on abortion.

Winners received certificates and gift cards from committee chairman Don Mulligan.

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Then-Bishop William G. Curlin was honored on Nov. 18, 2000 as the 2000 recipient of the Thanks for Giving Award by the House of Mercy, an AIDS outreach facility founded and operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. The annual award recognizes a person who has contributed to direct care, services or general support for people with AIDS and the virus that leads to it, HIV.

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St. Mary Catholic School is accepting applications for the position of elementary school principal for the 2005-2006 school year. St. Mary Catholic School is located in Rome, Georgia, which is approximately one hour northwest of Atlanta. St. Mary is a PK-8 elementary school enrolling 350 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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Saintly aspirations



COURTESY PHOTO

Several students from St. Michael School in Gastonia dressed up as their favorite saints for a special Mass on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, celebrated by Father Joseph Mulligan, pastor of St. Michael Church. The costumed students explained the history of their chosen saints during the Mass. Pictured are (from left): Emma Nellie as St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Raymond Mijumbi as St. Luke, Becca Pressimone as St. Maria Goretti, Father Mulligan, Preston Marisiddaiah (front) as St. Vincent de Paul, Olivia Wylie as St. Bernadette and Clare Pressimone as St. Cecilia.

Ghost stories shared around the Writer's Café

CHARLOTTE — Spooky tales were shared during the recent Writer's Café at St. Matthew School.

Danielle Greene's fourth-grade class showcased their original ghost stories during the Oct. 25 event. After two weeks of writing and editing stories, the students decorated their classroom like a café and invited their parents to hear their scary stories, with titles such as "Spooky" and "The Night I Was Really, Really Scared."

"This is an opportunity for students to share their work and get feedback from their peers," said Greene. "They are asked to fill out a conference summary which gives them both positive and negative feedback."

At the end of the Writer's Café,

the students turned their work in to Greene to be graded.

"Writer's Café is a way to change the environment in the classroom and just make writing more fun," said Greene. "The students get to be creative and take ownership for their work."

The program is part of the school's commitment to excellence in writing, with several other classes holding similar events.

Third-graders enjoyed Book Talk, where students read books and discussed them in small groups. Kindergarten students are writing and drawing in journals and sharing them with each other to foster an appreciation of literature.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-graders Zoie Randall, Meagan Burelli, Enrique Valles and Cullen Lovelock share their original ghost stories during the Writer's Café at St. Matthew School in Charlotte Oct. 25.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Don't be labeled, don't label

Only we can define ourselves

Labels. Don't ya just love 'em? For one moment during your freshman year of high school, you got excited about the new Lara Croft Tomb Raider game that let you save the game without collecting a save-game crystal, and now for the rest of your high school life you are a "gamer."

In a moment of weakness, you spaced out the fact that your teacher had been calling your name, and now you are eternally an "airhead."

Here are a few more names that have been passed out to unsuspecting high schoolers over the last five decades, labels never shaken but always dreaded.

Jock: an athlete, especially in college or one characterized by excessive concern for machismo.

Nerd: a foolish, inept or unattractive person or a person who is single-minded or accomplished in scientific or technical pursuits but is felt to be socially inept.

Dork: a stupid, inept or foolish person.

Slacker: one lacking in diligence or due care or concern; negligent; a slack worker.

Geek: a person who is singleminded or accomplished in scientific or technical pursuits but is felt to be socially inept.

Skaters: skateboard types; long hair, long shorts, alternative T-shirts, music.

Friends, peers, classmates and even teachers love to assign labels to others, defining them with one word — and eliminating the need actually to get to know them. "Oh, he's a jock. I don't like him."

He may be athletic but he may love Shakespeare and listen to Bob Dylan. It isn't possible to be defined by one word.

We are made up of an array of talents and thoughts and likes and dislikes. And we change, we adapt.

At the beginning of high school, I still listened to the Top 40. By the time I graduated, I searched every independent label I could find to place in my CD player.

No one word can define us. We define ourselves.

Taking a shot at defining myself, I came up with many odd terms and also contradictory terms to describe me:

God-loving, college football fanatic, creative writer, stylish, dorky, a gamer, a duathlete, a people person, an introvert, a cynic, an optimist, a family member, a friend, a music lover, a person with great personal hygiene, a person with poor cleaning habits, an uncle, a godparent, a child, a lover of fine foods, an expert on cheeseburgers and fries.

Peers define us, they label us, they segregate us, and they talk to us or avoid us because of labels. It's part of it all, and it doesn't end when high school ends, so now is the time to define yourself. Then just ignore those labels.

There are many ways to avoid the one-word labels Webster's Dictionary provides for dorks, princesses, jocks and skaters. One rule of thumb: If the words are in the dictionary, don't limit

Coming of Age

KASE JOHNSTUN
CNS COLUMNIST



yourself to them. I am pretty happy with the crazy collage of personality contradictions I have come up with (although classmates from high school probably still think of me the same way they used to).

When I began to define myself as a teen, I have to admit that "God-loving" wasn't the first term I thought of. I grew into it. It quickly became first on the list because it encompassed so many attributes I didn't have to write down, for instance: a giver, a forgiver, a person who may not always succeed but tries to be honest and a person who also tries not to label the kid sitting next to me.

So let's start from there: "I am a God loving ..."

Crosses with three arms

Q. I just returned from Russia and have questions about the Orthodox crosses with three arms, one of them slanting. Can you explain what they mean? Also, crosses on the "steeple" of many Orthodox church buildings seem to be placed over a curved symbol, signifying an anchor. Is that true? (Louisiana)

A. The cross with three bars was in wide use very early in Christianity. According to legend the icon of the Mother of God of the Passion (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) was painted by St. Luke. Whether it was or not, it is an extremely ancient work of art and interestingly has the three-armed cross in the upper right-hand corner.

Metropolitan Ilarion Ohienko of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has written an extensive study of the three-bar cross. He calls it the Ukrainian National Cross, although it traditionally is identified also with other Orthodox, and some Eastern Catholic, churches.

The Christian theologian Origen (died about 254) tells of seeing the cross with the signboard above our Lord's head on which Pilate wrote the charge against him and the footrest where Christ's feet were nailed.

Most crucifixes with which we are familiar bear a small inscription near the top with letters standing for Jesus of

'Diabolical triad' leads people away from God, pope says at audience

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Violence, greed and covetousness are a "diabolical triad" that leads people away from God and from honoring human dignity, Pope John Paul II said.

When people trust in their own power instead of in God, they not only end up disappointed, but they harm others, the pope said Nov. 10 at his weekly general audience.

Pope John Paul's talk focused on Psalm 62 and its affirmation, "Only in God is my soul at rest; from him comes my salvation."

About 7,000 people crowded into the Vatican audience hall for the main part of the audience. Another 6,000 people, who could not fit into the hall after the audience was moved from St. Peter's Square, had a brief audience with the pope in St. Peter's Basilica.

The pope told his visitors that Psalm 62 presents two types of trust, "one good and one perverse, which lead to two different types of moral conduct."

Trust in the Lord is "the source of eternity and of peace," he said.

Those who turn their backs on God and try to rely on their own powers, the pope said, seek "security and stability in violence, in theft and in riches."

"The first false god is the violence that humanity unfortunately continues to follow in our blood-soaked days," he said.

"This idol is accompanied by an immense entourage of wars, oppression,

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



abuse of power, torture and despicable murders inflicted without a hint of remorse," the pope said.

"The second false god is theft, which is expressed in extortion, social injustice, usury and in political and economic corruption," he said.

"Richness is the third idol to which human hearts are attached in the foolish hope of being able to save them from death and to assure them the prize of power and prestige," the pope said.

Pope John Paul told his visitors, though, that "if we were more aware of our fallen nature and our limits as creatures, we would not choose the path of trusting in idols, nor would we organize our lives according to a scale of fragile and inconsistent pseudo values."

"We would orient ourselves toward that other type of trust, that which is centered on the Lord," he said.

Pope John Paul prayed that all Christians would increase their trust in God, using his commandments as the "guiding star in daily behavior, in moral decisions and in lifestyles."

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



our blessed Mother, where the woman with the moon under her feet (Revelation 12:1) is understood to be Mary. Elsewhere, the circular symbol signifies the world, the universal salvation effected by the crucifixion of Jesus.

There are at least 300 different forms of the cross in the history of Christian art and symbolism, many of them with the three cross bars, and certainly there are more than 300 explanations of their origin and meaning.

Each one is meant to portray in different ways what Christians believe about the death and resurrection of our Savior. It's not surprising that interpretations sometimes overlap, that a meaning originally intended becomes obscure in time and that the same symbol takes on more than one meaning over the centuries.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Peace on earth by saving the earth

When Wangari Maathai won this year's Nobel Peace Prize, some critics objected that honoring an environmentalist distracted from traditional peace work.

In 1977 Maathai, a 64-year-old biologist, founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya that empowered poor women by paying them to plant more than 30 million tree seedlings in their communities. Her movement promotes sustainable development while recognizing the intertwined problems of war, environmental degradation, poverty and the low status of women.

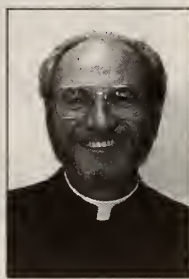
In awarding the prize to Maathai the Nobel committee noted, "Peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment." Just weeks before, a U.N. report cited deforestation and the scarcity of water — both exacerbated by global warming — as repeated causes of armed conflict in Africa.

Awareness among academics, scientists and recently the business community has begun linking peace on earth with saving the earth. In both *Business Week* (Aug. 16, 2004) and *National Geographic* (Sept., 2004) writers and editors draw attention to global warming and its dire consequences. They cite dramatic changes in climate that indicate human impact on the environment.

For example, geochemical records of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, show the current level (378 parts per million) at the highest-known carbon dioxide level in the last 40 million years.

Faith & the Marketplace

GLENMARY
FATHER JOHN
S. RAUSCH



In Peru, the Quelccaya ice cap is shrinking at the rate of 600 feet per year, 40 times faster than in 1978. And scientists recognize that hurricane strength, related to temperature, is strongly connected to global carbon dioxide levels.

The result of rapid climate change means uncertain agricultural production and altered patterns of living for humanity and the rest of creation on earth.

Yet not everyone agrees with these findings. Some argue the scientific observations could fit nature's acceptable pattern of change with little for humanity to do about global warming. They fear the rollbacks demanded by the Kyoto agreement would cripple the U.S. economy, create a carbon-constrained world and challenge the free-flowing lifestyle of many Americans. Their solution: live with a warmer world and trust science will eventually engineer schemes to create a desirable environment.

For *National Geographic*, global climate change is real and human activity using fossil fuels is exacerbating, if not

causing, the problem: "Ice is melting, rivers are running dry, and coasts are eroding. ... These aren't projections; they are facts on the ground."

The editors reference a report from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stating that human activity is almost certainly responsible for most of the past century's warming. They quote Professor George Philander, a climate expert at Princeton University, who says: "We're now geological agents, capable of affecting the processes that determine climate."

For people of faith "the ecological crisis is a moral issue," according to Pope John Paul II. His statement, "The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility," emphasizes that "respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation." He encourages converting from a lifestyle of consumption, addressing the structures of poverty, rejecting war with its inherent ecological destruction, promoting ecological responsibility and appreciating the beauty of nature.

With Maathai, the pope shares a more holistic vision for the world than either economics or science can provide. His statement was issued on Jan. 1, 1990, the World Day of Peace, thus, like Maathai, linking ecology and peace for a world that respects the common good.

Father Rausch is a syndicated columnist in Berea, Ky.

The amazing ministries of retired priests

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



During retreats, I have met 70- and 80-year-old priests who care for several parishes, often traveling long distances to reach them. Others fill in so pastors can get away, while others are the backbone of various ministries in their dioceses.

When we reviewed the age categories of priests in the research studies we conducted, we usually focused on active priests. Retired priests generally were envisioned as being in the background due to health problems, lack of energy and immobility. Yet, I realize that retired priests today are definitely in the foreground!

These priests often exude an energy and strength that younger generations don't have. It's not that younger people lack energy or are weaker. Rather, it is that older people have a unique toughness that comes with age, despite physical degeneration. They know how to better pace themselves and calmly face seemingly overwhelming problems.

Once these men are gone, many dioceses already hurting for priests will be devastated. The number of U.S. parishes without a resident pastor is growing. Without these retired men, that number would be much larger. We especially will feel their loss in hospital ministry and ministry to the elderly.

As I've listened to retired priests tell of their priesthood, I've realized that the wisdom and inspiration they pass on to younger priests are awesome. In fact, when younger priests tell their stories, many point to an older priest as their ideal. The loss of these older priests means that the church will lose not only an essential priestly support system, but more important, it will lose a wisdom community.

As dire as this may sound, elderly priests would tell us not to fear. Many who in their prime were autonomous pastors now advocate giving more responsibility to lay leaders. Instead of seeing a crippled church, many see new models of collaboration with the laity adding a fresh vitality.

And what about elderly priests serving as wise mentors for younger priests? Many elderly priests would tell us that today's youth are much more independent and also more knowledgeable. As water finds its level, so too will younger priests find the spirituality and wisdom needed to carry on, be it from other priests or the laity.

Our retired priests will one day be missed dearly. But their love for the priesthood and the people it serves will live on in those they have touched. With this spirit of love, the church and priesthood will not only survive, but also thrive.

Election 2004: The role of 'moral values'

Increasingly pro-life country votes for morals

This election was supposed to be about terrorism, the economy and Iraq. But there was a more pressing issue that motivated people to vote this year, and that was the issue of moral values.

According to exit polls from the National Election Pool, the official election source for broadcast and cable television stations, "moral values" was cited as the most important issue in this election by more people than any other concern. The economy and jobs was next, followed by terrorism, then the war in Iraq.

Among those who cited moral values as paramount, 80 percent voted for Bush and 18 percent voted for Kerry.

While abortion and marriage certainly were not the centerpiece of either campaign, their importance to voters cannot be underestimated.

Eleven states had ballot initiatives to defend traditional marriage and each one passed by a healthy margin. Sixty-five percent of Floridians voted to overturn bad court rulings and amend their constitution to allow enactment of a law requiring parental notification for minor girls seeking abortions.

Only California bucked the apparent moral values trend by voting to put billions of dollars into embryonic stem cell and human cloning research.

The 2002 mid-term election suggested that the pro-life position is a "plus" for candidates, and this election proved it again. The House of Representatives will have more pro-life votes after this election, but the real story is the Senate, where there were significant pro-life gains.

New senators who vote pro-life were elected in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and South Dakota. In Louisiana, a senator who sometimes voted pro-life was replaced by a strong supporter of the cause.

These new senators will provide a stronger margin in the Senate on issues such as abortion, human cloning and embryo-destructive research. Their most significant impact, however, may be on judicial nominations.

In a statement issued the day after the election, Elizabeth Cavendish, president of Pro-Choice American (formerly National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) warned President Bush against trying to "pack the Supreme Court with new anti-choice zealots." Planned Parenthood's Gloria Feldt promised to "fight these and many other battles" with "unity of purpose and fierceness of heart to protect our human rights."

Life Issues Forum

CATHY
CLEAVER
RUSE, Esq.
CNS COLUMNIST

These and other abortion advocates are utterly out of step with the world around them.

Last year the pro-abortion Center for Gender Equity published a survey of women showing the startling result that, of all the "top priority" issues for the women's movement, "keeping abortion legal" ranked dead last. The survey also showed that a majority of women — 51 percent — believe that abortion should never be permitted, or permitted only in cases of rape, incest or life endangerment (2 percent of abortions yearly).

More good news comes from the recent Pace University/Rock the Vote poll. "Rock the Vote" was launched by MTV in 1992 to get young people to register to vote. And where do these super-hip-MTV-rock-the-voters stand on abortion? According to their own poll, 54 percent of them are pro-life.

It shouldn't have surprised us that "moral values" came first.

Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq. is the director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

THE MORALITY OF EATING

Catholic advocates encourage people to think about food connections

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Although an emphasis on food always increases around the Thanksgiving holiday, Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, head of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, thinks this focus should be year-round.

He is not talking about a constant food fest either, but of helping people develop a deeper awareness of where their food comes from and to make conscious decisions to support farmers and food companies that do not exploit workers.

This kind of food consciousness is growing, he said, and has been fueled, in part, by the campaign "Eating Is a Moral Act," sponsored for the third year by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, which is based in Des Moines, Iowa.

The campaign — with its flyers, seminars and educational materials focusing on moral decisions that come into play in food purchasing — seems to run up against the massive amounts of highly processed convenience foods available in this country and the ever burgeoning number of fast-food chains.

But the campaign's message that people need to think before eating — and not just for health reasons — is striking a chord for many Catholics across the United States and, in particular, on Catholic college campuses, Brother Andrews told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from St. Louis.

To get the message to the local level, he has worked with a number of Catholic school superintendents and food service directors urging them to buy school lunch food from local farms.

He recently visited a Catholic school in Florida that has taken the notion of using local food a step further. Hope Rural School, run by Dominican Sisters for migrant farmworkers' children in Indiantown, has a large garden on the school grounds where the staff grows their own produce for school meals.

"They're doing the kind of stuff I'd



CNS PHOTOS BY PAUL HARRING

Above: Adele Youngborg picks green beans on Andrew and Avis Turner's farm in Upper Marlboro, Md., Oct. 11. Youngborg is a friend of the family and frequently helps out on the farm.

like to see more schools do," Brother Andrews said.

He stressed that these students clearly know where their food comes from and can also start to see the connections between food and social justice.

Students at Jesuit-run Gonzaga College High School in Washington, hardly a school within a farming community, are also getting the connection that all foods don't originate in a packaged, processed form.

That's because their social justice teacher, Andrew Turner, operates a 20-acre farm in nearby Upper Marlboro, Md., with his wife, Avis, when he is not in class.

Turner devotes a portion of the year's studies to food issues, pointing out how food factory employees and migrant farmworkers are often grossly

underpaid. He urges his students not to take their food for granted, but he admits that is a hard lesson to get across to students primarily from the Washington suburbs.

He said students really begin to understand the issue when they participate in a school-sponsored service project of helping migrant workers on a Florida farm.

They also seem to respect him for the work he puts into farming.

The Turners, parishioners at St. Pe-

ter Church in Waldorf, have been farming the family property for 15 years in a region of the country that is rapidly becoming more developed with neighborhoods and shopping centers.

They raise corn, tomatoes, beans, squash, melons and cut flowers for their farming business called TGIF, for Thank God It's Fresh, and sell the produce at three different farmers' markets each week during growing season. Avis Turner also works two days a week as a clinical social worker.

The couple says that the extra income they make from farming has helped them pay Catholic school tuition for their four children and now helps pay college tuition for their oldest child.

They also see spiritual benefits to farming.

Andrew said maintaining the farm, which is particularly challenging in the spring and early fall while he is teaching, has taught him to deal with life's ups and downs and to accept whatever happens.

He said when certain crops do not yield much of a harvest he is reminded that "there are certain things in life you have no control over."

He also appreciates the physical labor and the time of quiet.

"Even in the mundane hard work, I can turn to God and hear his voice speak loudly," he told CNS.

Avis, who works on the farm along with a handful of students they hire each year, also sells the produce, and finds that part of her job just as spiritually rewarding as working in the fields because it gives her the opportunity to talk to so many people.

Regular customers not only get to put a face to the product they purchase, but she said they also will frequently talk to her about their lives, which she said gives her a unique "opportunity to witness" her own faith.

The Turners, busy now with canning fruits and vegetables, not with planting, harvesting and selling, are ready for winter.

"We just finished the last farmers' market," said Andrew Nov. 2. "I love Thanksgiving because then the farm's at rest."



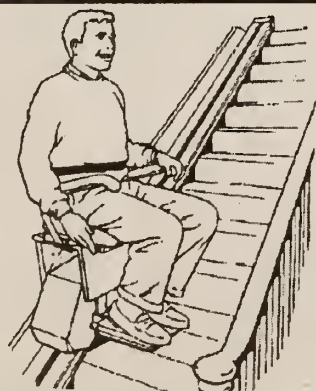
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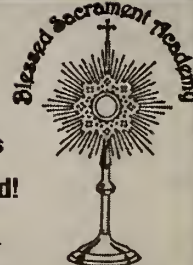
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Along the journey
Torch bearers stop in
diocese during
international trek

| Page 4

NOVEMBER 19, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 8

RISING IN FAITH



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis anoints with chrism oil the altar of Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain during a dedication Mass Nov. 9. Below: Father Eric Houseknecht, pastor, incenses the church, walls and people during the Mass.

Faithful gather to celebrate renovated church



*Updates refine
'sense of the sacred,'
says pastor*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

KINGS MOUNTAIN — For Christie Morrison, the newly renovated Christ the King Church means her spiritual home is finally complete.

As one of the three surviving founding members of the church, she wasn't going to miss the dedication Mass, cel-

ebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis Nov. 9, that brought months of renovation and refurbishing to a close.

"That's why it means so much to me to see the beauty of it," said Morrison. "It's a great improvement. Pews are changed, walls are painted. It's a beautiful church."

Christ the King Church, a mission of St. Mary Church in Shelby, had suffered structural deterioration over the years. But damage from recent flooding prompted Father Eric Houseknecht, pastor, to give

See DEDICATION, page 5

FAITH AND POLITICS

At 29 percent, Catholics remain largest faith group in Congress

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Catholics will make up 29 percent of the 109th Congress when it convenes in early January, with a slight rise in the number of Catholic Republicans and a similar drop in the number of Catholic Democrats.

With 128 representatives and 24 senators identifying themselves as Catholics in a survey by *Congressional Quarterly*, Catholicism remains the largest single religious affiliation claimed by members of the new Congress. Baptists were second, with 65 House

See CONGRESS, page 6

Abortion linked to later anxiety problems, new study shows

WOMEN GIVING BIRTH TO UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES DO BETTER

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Women who abort unintended pregnancies are more likely to experience subsequent problems with anxiety compared to women who deliver their unintended pregnancies, according to a study published in the latest edition of *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*.

Using data collected from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), researchers examined a nationally representative sample of 10,847 women aged 15-34 who had experienced an unintended first pregnancy and had no

See ABORTION, page 12

¿HABLA ESPAÑOL?

Priests, deacons immersed in Spanish language

COURSE HELPS CLERGY REACH OUT TO HISPANIC PARISHIONERS

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Imagine you attend Mass next Sunday, but you can't understand what the deacon says in his homily. Imagine you seek the sacrament of reconciliation, but the priest can't understand what you are saying, so he can't offer appropriate counsel.

For many of the diocese's



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Deacons and priests practice their numbers in Spanish.

See SPANISH, page 7

In Our Schools

Fourth-graders bring meals to children; BMHS induction ceremony

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Culture Watch

WWII intrigue; 'Passion' star says acting a calling

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Perspectives

Good News vs. the news; Thanksgiving reflections

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SAFER STREETS



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Father Peter McQuinn, pastor at Epiphany Church in Chicago, shows some of the ammunition collected in a lockbox to Officer Daniel Martinez from the Chicago Police Department. The box was set up at the parish to collect handguns and lock them up as part of a program in September to make the Little Village neighborhood safer.

Churches fight violence with gun turn-ins, other safety efforts

CHICAGO (CNS) — In a period when murders dropped by more than 22 percent across Chicago, the police district that includes the city's Little Village neighborhood is on pace to meet or beat the 2003 total of 37 murders.

Those statistics are challenging Epiphany Church and other Catholic parishes in the neighborhood to step up their efforts to bring peace to a community torn apart by gangs, substance abuse and domestic violence.

Father Peter McQuinn, pastor of Epiphany, said his parish has expanded its ongoing efforts advocating against violence in conjunction with other churches in the community.

Each of the churches recently hosted a gun turn-in program over four weekends.

At Epiphany, Father McQuinn stationed himself in the church at announced times, near a locked box placed in front of the altar to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Anyone could bring in a gun, no questions asked, and place it in the box. None of the other parishes received more than two guns, but Epiphany got eight, Father McQuinn said.

One "abuela," or grandmother, brought in two guns with the priest's

encouragement.

"She grew up in a country, a culture, where it was normal to have guns," he said.

But even if the people who have the guns never intend to use them for a crime, they can be found by children or be stolen, Father McQuinn said. People think of the New Year's Eve tradition of firing guns into the air as harmless, but people have been killed accidentally that way, he said.

The gun turn-in has been "a success in one way," he added. "For five weeks, it gave us an opportunity to preach about keeping our homes safe."

Keeping homes safe is a topic that comes up frequently at Epiphany — whether at the annual Day of the Dead march and Mass, which includes erecting outdoor altars to victims of violence, or at summer street Masses celebrated near victims' homes or at pre-baptism classes for parents and godparents.

Father McQuinn said not all parishioners want to hear messages about violence, but he doesn't intend to stop preaching about it.

"You have too much dignity not to be told the truth," he said. "It's a bad idea to have a handgun in your home when you have three kids around."

Moral support: Despite criticism, pope met with Arafat 12 times

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II considered Yasser Arafat the legitimate leader of the Palestinian people and thought his long struggle for a Palestinian homeland merited moral support.

Primarily for those reasons, the pope met with Arafat 12 times, despite harsh criticism from Israeli and Jewish leaders and many others.

Their encounters included a historic visit to Arafat's headquarters in Bethlehem, West Bank, in 2000, during the pope's Holy Land pilgrimage. On that occasion, Arafat placed a medal around the pope's neck to honor the pontiff for supporting the Palestinian cause.

Under Arafat's leadership, the Vatican opened diplomatic ties with the Palestinian National Authority, paralleling the Holy See's diplomatic relations with Israel. In 2000, the Vatican sealed a groundbreaking "fundamental agreement" with the Palestinian leadership regarding

church rights in Palestinian territories.

Now, Vatican officials want to make sure Arafat's successor will honor those agreements and keep the channels of dialogue open with the Christian minority in the Holy Land.

"But there is also a chance, given the current tensions, that instead of moderates, the more extremist people will move in," a Vatican official said Nov. 10, the day before Arafat's death in Paris.

"We hope that, because we all learn from history, the Palestinian people who have suffered so much will know how to choose leaders who can get them out of the present situation," the official said.

Part of the Vatican's interest in future Palestinian leadership lies in its concern for the approximately 40,000 Christians who live in the Palestinian territories. Although a draft Palestinian constitution envisioned a lay state, it also declared Islam the official religion.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Al Barbarino, a lay apostolate Franciscan of the Padre Pio Shelter in New York, will offer a free concert and spiritual reflection focusing on "Living as Christian Catholics in our Everyday Lives" Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will host a six-day advent retreat based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius Dec. 5-11. Participants are asked to spend time in daily prayer using guided meditation and to meet daily with a prayer companion to share their spiritual journey during the retreat. For details, call Jesuit Father Vince Alagia at (704) 332-2901, ext. 18.

HUNTERSVILLE — A Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available for all members of the clergy and laity in the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Any parishioner interested in the Apostolate and who would like to make a firm commitment to adoration for one hour a week is welcome to join the Perpetual Adoration Society. For details, call Kathleen at (704) 366-5127 or e-mail Terri at terridugan@earthlink.com

HUNTERSVILLE — Women's Catholic Scripture Study meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740

Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for caregivers of a family member with memory loss meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — Elizabeth Ministry is forming a group at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Elizabeth Ministry offers confidential, one-to-one contact, information, comfort and healing for women who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death. Please call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Fun and Fitness after 50 classes are being offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This program of gentle exercise promotes joint flexibility and muscle strength. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call Maureen Benfield at (704) 362-5047, ext. 221.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join Women in the Word for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at (704) 907-0205.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — All middle and high school youths are welcome to join Dennis Teall-Fleming for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday, 5-6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College for an

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope reminds people to share with needy at Thanksgiving

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As people express gratitude at Thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth, they should remember to share them with the needy, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope made his comments during a noon blessing at the Vatican Nov. 14, the day celebrated in Italy this year as Thanksgiving. Several hundred people standing in a light rain cheered the pontiff as he spoke from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square.

The pope said he joined in a special way with the prayers of agricultural workers as they gave thanks at harvest time.

All people should be "grateful to the Lord for what nature and human labor produce for our sustenance" and should also be "ready to share our

resources with those who are in need," he said.

The pope said that for Christians the full expression of thanksgiving comes in the Eucharist.

"In every Mass, we bless the Lord, God of the universe, presenting to him the bread and wine as fruits of the earth and human labor. To these simple foods Christ has linked his own sacrificial gift," he said.

All Christians, he added, are called to offer to God their daily work and their very existence, as Christ did, he said.

The pope spoke in a relatively strong voice during his nine-minute appearance. His prepared talk was very short, but he took time to greet groups of Polish pilgrims who held banners in the square.

hour of prayer and devotion. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will celebrate the arrival of the *Guadalupe Torch* Dec. 1, with a fiesta at 5 p.m. followed by a Spanish mass at 7 p.m. A send-off ceremony will be held Dec. 2 at 7 a.m. Father Jack Kelly will bless a banner and the torchbearer during its stay at IHM. For more information, contact Diane Jakubsen at (336) 454-5640 or e-mail writesrc1@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

KANNAPOLIS — Augustinian Father Albert MacPherson will celebrate a *Parish Healing Mission* Nov. 21-24 at St. Joseph Church, 108 St. Joseph St. Father MacPherson will celebrate the Sunday Masses as well as Mass at 7 p.m., Nov. 21-24. Each Mass will be followed by the sacrament of reconciliation or prayer for heal-

ing. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 932-4607.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo will present "Peaceful Prayer in a Busy Season" Nov. 24 at 7 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. This is an opportunity for quiet prayer time to escape the mad rush in our lives. For additional information, contact Our Lady of Mercy Church at (336) 722-7001.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Catholic Church invites all unmarried Catholics for a *Holiday Singles Get-Together*, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Fourth Street Filling Station, 871 W. 4th St., in Winston-Salem. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening before the holidays begin. Please RSVP to Donna Kronner by Dec. 6, by calling (336) 631-8892 or e-mail dkronner@wfubmc.edu.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., celebrates *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Friday until 7 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 for more information.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 20 — 10 a.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Nov. 21 — 2:30 p.m. Mass
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Pope urges Iraqi authorities to ensure fair elections

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Iraq's interim authorities to ensure fair elections and resolve internal conflicts through dialogue, using military force only as a last resort.

In a speech to the new Iraqi ambassador, Albert Ismail Yelda, to the Holy See Nov. 15, the pope reiterated his closeness to "the dear people of Iraq," tried by war, violence and terrorism.

The pope spoke as U.S. and Iraqi forces were concluding the largest military operation in many months against insurgents based in Fallujah, Iraq.

Yelda told the pope that Iraq and the Vatican would "be working together relentlessly" to reach the common objectives of peace, justice, freedom and democracy.

Many times the pope, who opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq, has called on the international community to support reconstruction and the interim government there. He met Nov. 4 with interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, whom he also encouraged to press ahead with democratic reform and the guarantee of religious freedom in Iraq.

In his meeting with Yelda, he urged the interim Iraqi government to

"work untiringly to settle disputes and conflicts through dialogue and negotiation, having recourse to military force only as a last resort."

The pope said the fundamental principle of the rule of law "is basic for any modern society that truly seeks to safeguard and promote the common good."

Once rights are guaranteed by legislation, he said, "they will enable all citizens, regardless of religious belief or affiliation, to make their proper contribution to the building up of Iraq."

He encouraged the Iraqi interim government to do all it could to ensure that the elections now planned for January will be fair and transparent.

The pope said the Catholic Church "is committed to assisting your people in constructing a more peaceful and stable nation."

Christian churches in Iraq have been bombed on three separate occasions since last August.

Yelda told the pope that Iraq would work with the Holy See to bring "a state of harmony and tolerance between all the religions" and to eliminate wars, AIDS and famine.

Faithfully dressed



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Children dress as biblical characters, saints and angels for the All Saints party at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville Oct. 31. They were among the 120 costumed children and adults who enjoyed the festivities.

USCCB plans, priorities range from health insurance to vocations plan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops Nov. 15 overwhelmingly approved a set of priorities and plans for the next year that includes such new efforts as creating a national strategy on vocations and developing materials to explain the moral case for the nation to cover the uninsured.

The priorities and plans, which passed 270-16 on the first day of the bishops' annual fall general meeting, included mostly ongoing programs of USCCB committees and staff offices.

A few of the items are new projects on the agenda for the coming

year and beyond. They included an assortment of intermittent activities such as their publishing office plan to provide materials for the international observance of World Youth Day.

Other items are likely to be one-time efforts, such as producing materials for the 25th anniversary of a pastoral letter on racism, planned by the Secretariat for African-American Catholics.

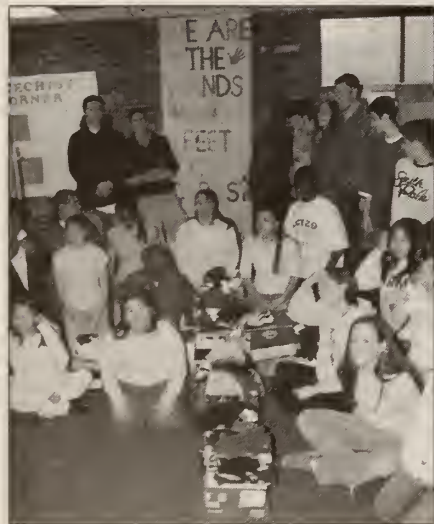
Look for more coverage of the bishops' annual fall general meeting in the next issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

Clothing the 'poorest of the poor'

Our Lady of the Assumption Church confirmation students collect shoes, gloves



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS



Above: Elizabeth Roberts quizzes confirmation students on the seven sacraments during their final class Nov. 14. The class will be confirmed at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Nov. 20.

Left: The confirmation class gathers around their collection of shoes and gloves, arranged in the shape of a cross. As their class service project, the 28 ninth-graders collected 75 pairs of new shoes and gloves.

"These will be given to the Missionaries of Charity, who will distribute them to the poorest of the poor in Charlotte," said Terri DeLuca, confirmation teacher.

Along the journey

**TORCH BEARERS STOPS
IN DIOCESE DURING
INTERNATIONAL TREK**

CHARLOTTE — Three Catholic churches in the Diocese of Charlotte will soon share in events uniting two countries and cultures.

A torch from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City will stop at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Nov. 29, Divine Redeemer Church in Boonville Nov. 30 and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point Dec. 1.

They are three of more than 60 stops along the torch's 3,813-mile journey to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, an "international religious pilgrimage" that began Oct. 10 and ends Dec. 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

By the trip's end, more than 27,000 people will have carried the torch along with a reproduction of the Guadalupe image.

"The event has been organized as a torch run for the past two years, as in reminiscent of the Olympic torch run," said Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church.

"I have extended hospitality to the runners and volunteers," he said. "We will welcome the pilgrims here with a Mass at 7 p.m. and then with a meal."

The Mass, said Father Lawlor, will highlight the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the most revered saints in Latin America and is the patron saint of the Americas, including Mexico.

St. Juan Diego, the 16th-century Indian in Mexico who saw the visions of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac hill in 1531, was canonized July 31, 2002 by Pope John Paul II at the basilica built on the site of the apparitions.

"The news of the apparitions and the miraculous image were a catalyst that increased Christian devotion and conversions," said Father Lawlor. "Historians estimate that in the first seven years after the apparitions, 8 million native Mexicans accepted the faith and were baptized."

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, the event begins with an evening fiesta and Spanish Mass. Early the next day, a send-off ceremony will be held as the torch and its message of love and solidarity travel to St. Rafael the Archangel Church in Raleigh.

Oblate Father Jack Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, will bless a banner and the torchbearer during its stay in High Point.

"It gives us an opportunity as a parish community to share in the Mexican culture," said Father Kelly.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church began offering a regular Spanish-language Sunday Mass in January of this year and continues to nurture its growing Hispanic ministry.

The torch run began in 2001 as a way to unite people separated by the border between the United States and Mexico and to promote friendship among communities in both countries. The event is sponsored by the Tepeyac Association of New York, a nonprofit agency uniting the efforts of 40 community organizations serving immigrants from Mexico.

Mexican Jesuits, asked by the New York Archdiocese to help with work for Mexican immigrants, sent Jesuit Brother Joel Magallan Reyes in 1996, and the following year he helped organize the association.

Led by Brother Magallan as executive director, the association emphasizes service to "the undocumented in New York City."

These immigrants "live under inhumane conditions, yet are ineligible for most services provided by the city," according to the association.

It said the torch run was organized to promote "dignity and permanent residency for all 9 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S."

"Until such time as the global community effectively addresses the root causes of undocumented migration, individual nations must confront the presence of the undocumented in a manner which upholds the dignity and basic human rights of all immigrants, regardless of their legal status," the association said.

The association said it is traditional for Mexicans to "run, carrying a torch" from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to their home town, arriving on Dec. 12.

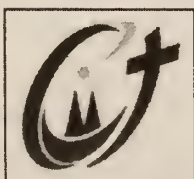
"Bringing the torch to New York would be bringing a piece of home for the immigrants working and living in the United States," said an association press release. "Establishing their own religious traditions, wherever they live, is a way to empower their identity and enable them to live with more dignity among citizens who accept them."

WANT TO GO?

At St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte: 7 p.m. Mass Nov. 29; at Divine Redeemer Church in Boonville: 7 p.m. Mass Nov. 30; at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point: 5 p.m. fiesta, 7 p.m. Spanish-language Mass Dec. 1, 7 a.m. send-off ceremony Dec. 2.

Do you want to attend Mass with the Pope and meet thousands of Catholic youth from around the world?

Plan now to attend WORLD YOUTH DAY 2005 in Cologne, Germany, August 14-22.



The Young Adult Ministry staff of the Diocese of Charlotte will lead a group of all interested youth aged 18-30 to Cologne, Germany for this unforgettable experience! Cost, based on double occupancy, is \$2238 (single is \$2500).

Deposit of \$200 is due by DECEMBER 15th so don't delay!

Visit www.wydua.org for schedule and resources of the conference.
Information: Peg Ruble (704) 370-3359

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FROM THE COVER

Faithful celebrate renovated church

DEDICATION, from page 1

the church a major overhaul.

"Father Eric worked very hard for this renovation," said Morrison. "We're so proud of him and thankful to have him."

Parishioner Mal Brutko, whose daughter was the first child baptized in the church founded in 1983, was impressed with the church's new look.

"The changes are wonderful. It's like a whole new start," he said.

Beginning in the mid-1930s, when the first Catholic family is thought to have settled in Kings Mountain, Catholics had to travel to Shelby or Gastonia for Mass and catechetical instruction. Father Thomas Clements, then-pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby, began celebrating Mass in the Kings Mountain American Legion Hall in 1960.

The congregation briefly utilized a former Presbyterian church after then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh established an apostolic center for training newly ordained priests in Kings Mountain. But the church buildings, having been constructed decades earlier, were suffering from disrepair.

By 1965, the apostolic training center was relocated from Kings Mountain, and local Episcopal and Lutheran congregations welcomed their Catholic neighbors to use their church facilities for Masses throughout the 1970s.

"We held Mass at different places for quite a few years while we raised money," said Morrison.

Finally in March 1981, four acres of land were purchased and 18 months later land was finally broken for a new Catholic church. The first Mass in the new Christ the King Church was celebrated in July 1983, with 43 families registered at the time. The church was

dedicated on Nov. 29, 1983 — the feast day of Christ the King.

But from the beginning, the church was plagued with leaks culminating in the spring of 2004 with more than 18 inches of standing water in the basement, increasing the threat of mold and decay. The ebb and flow of water around the church also had destroyed the prior drainage system.

More than 24 feet of soil were removed and replaced, building up the ground level for proper drainage. With major landscaping and resurfacing efforts taking place outside, Father Houseknecht oversaw an almost total overhaul of the interior structure.

Walls were moved and erected, new rooms were created and skylights were added. Lighting fixtures were replaced, flooring was put down and new ductwork with an updated HVAC system was installed.

Pews were reconfigured, adding 74 linear feet of additional seating. The interior walls were painted to complement a giant mural of the Risen Christ behind the altar.

"We've refined the sense of the sacred through expansion of the sanctuary, increasing the window space and choosing a natural color palette to enhance the furnishings," said Father Houseknecht.

"It's beautiful," said Mary Allen, a parishioner of St. Mary Church who helped decorate Christ the King Church for its recent dedication. "I think the yellow (of the walls) brings it out. It's such an improvement."

The tabernacle was refinished and the altar of repose was rebuilt from two side panels originally from old choir stalls at Belmont Abbey. Two new meeting rooms and a room for reconciliation were also added.

"The renovation means everything,"



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Christopher Roux (right) serves as master of ceremonies as Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Eric Houseknecht concelebrate the dedication Mass at Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain Nov. 9.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above left: Parishioners of Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain kneel in prayer during the dedication Mass Nov. 9. Above right: Father Houseknecht lights the church candles during the dedication Mass.

said Morrison. "It took a lot of work to get it done."

"We're real happy. Father Eric has done a wonderful job," said Brutko.

"Lord, fill this place with your presence, and extend your hand to all those who call upon you," prayed Bishop Jugis during the Mass. "May your Word here proclaimed and your sacraments here celebrated strengthen the hearts of all the faithful."

"May this building, which we dedicate to your name, be a house of salvation and grace where Christians gath-

ered in fellowship may worship you in spirit and truth and grow together in love," said the bishop.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more on the history of Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain, see the parish profile on page 16.

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Catholics largest faith group in 109th Congress

CONGRESS, from page 1

members and seven senators.

According to an analysis of the data by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Government Liaison, the number of Catholic senators was unchanged at 24.

But the defeat of Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and the election win of Republican Mel Martinez of Florida left the Senate numbers at 11 Catholic Republicans and 13 Catholic Democrats, compared to 10 Republicans and 14 Democrats in the 108th Congress.

Similarly, the number of Catholics in the House of Representatives increased by four, from 126 to 130, according to the USCCB analysis, which included nonvoting Delegates Luis Fortuno, a Republican representing Puerto Rico, and Madeleine Bordallo, a Democrat from Guam.

But the number of Catholic Democrats declined by one from 73 to 72, according to the USCCB analysis. Catholic Republicans in the House increased by five, from 53 to 58. Catholics make up 30 percent of the House membership of the 109th Congress.

The 540 members of Congress include 100 senators, 435 representatives and five nonvoting members, who include four delegates, from the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands, and one resident commissioner from Puerto Rico.

After Catholics and Baptists, the most-represented denominations in the 109th Congress are Methodists, at 63 in both houses; Presbyterians, at 50; Episcopalians, at 41; and Lutherans, at 20. Another 38 members of Congress identi-

fied themselves as Christians, without specifying a denomination, and seven listed no religious background.

Eleven senators and 26 House members identified themselves as Jewish, while 11 representatives and five senators said they belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Other faith groups represented in the 109th Congress include the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Scientist, Community of Christ, Eastern Orthodox, Pentecostal, Quaker, Seventh-day Adventist, Unitarian and United Church of Christ and Congregationalist.

In its analysis of the ethnic makeup of the 109th Congress, *Congressional Quarterly* said the number of African-Americans in Congress had increased by four with one in the Senate and 42 in the House. All are Democrats.

The number of Hispanics in Congress was up two in the Senate — one Democrat and one Republican — and increased by one in the House to 24 — 19 Democrats and five Republicans.

Asian-American representation in Congress remained the same at two senators and three House members, all Democrats, while the number of American Indians dropped by two to none in the Senate and one in the House.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, a Republican from Louisiana and a Catholic, becomes the only member of Asian Indian heritage in the 109th Congress and only the second Asian-American representative in history.

The number of women senators remained the same — 10 Democrats and four Republicans — while the 65 women in the House — 42 Democrats and 23 Republicans — represented a net increase of five.

Oblate Father John Gavin dies at 72

Priest served in Diocese of Charlotte, Vietnam

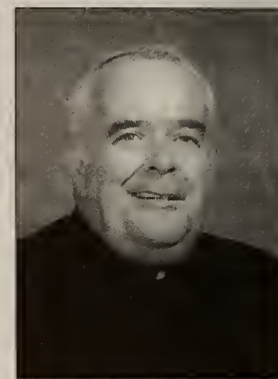
PHILADELPHIA — Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father John T. Gavin, a priest who had served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died Nov. 12 in Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. He was 72.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Nov. 19, with internment in the Oblate Cemetery at the De Sales Center in Childs, Md.

Among his many assignments, Father Gavin had served at St. Joseph Church in Asheboro from 1976 to 1979 and Holy Cross Church in Kernersville from 1979 to 1980.

He taught history at high schools in Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia, and served as a Catholic chaplain to the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1970 to 1974, receiving a Bronze Star for his service.

He was admitted to Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, N.J., after suffering a heart attack in August 2004. He underwent quadruple bypass surgery and remained in the center's cardiovascular intensive care unit on a ventilator until Sept. 10, when he was transferred to Temple

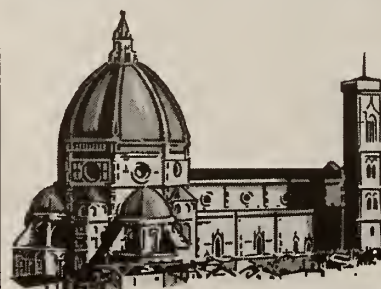


Father John T. Gavin

University Hospital's respiratory intensive care unit until his death.

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, a religious congregation of priests and brothers, request that in lieu of flowers contributions be sent to: Oblate Retirement Fund, 2200 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806

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'It's a disaster to not be able to communicate with your parishioners.'

Priests, deacons immersed in Spanish language

SPANISH, from page 1

140,000-plus foreign-born residents, this is an all-too-common problem. Fortunately for the Hispanic population, more priests and deacons will now be able to celebrate the Mass in Spanish and converse with Hispanic parishioners in their native language.

Four priests and two permanent deacons participated in the inaugural pastoral Spanish immersion course held at St. Vincent de Paul Church Nov. 8-12. Participants spent five days learning "pastoral Spanish" — how to celebrate the Mass and sacraments in Spanish — as well as key aspects of Hispanic culture.

According to Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry, diocesan priests first requested a Spanish-language immersion course two years ago to enable them to answer the needs of

their Hispanic parishioners.

A committee of 10 members was formed, consisting of Spanish teachers and Hispanics, and a survey was issued to all priests and deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte to assess interest in initiating a Spanish immersion program.

As part of their immersion experiences, each participant lived with a Hispanic family from a different country, allowing them to experience as many different cultures as possible.

"The committee felt it was important to learn not only vocabulary and grammar, but also culture, because every Hispanic culture or country is different," Sister Inkrott said.

Each Spanish-speaking country has its own dialect and culture, much like the United States compared to Great Britain, Australia or even our neighbor to the north, Canada.

"It's also important not to make immigrants 'tow the line,' (by requiring conformity to American customs) but allowing them to keep their own culture," Deacon Bob Desautels said.

He hopes to use his newly honed conversation skills in his prison ministry in the Winston-Salem area.

Deacon Desautels is also the chaplain of a Boy Scout troop that has five Hispanic Scouts this year. He said he is thinking of organizing a separate troop comprised entirely of Hispanic boys.

"We have to face the reality that we need to minister to all the people in our area, even though some of them don't speak English," he said.

Sonja Ramirez, a Spanish teacher with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Brisbane Academy, was



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sonja Ramirez instructs Deacon Bob Desautels, Father Robert Ferris, Father Albert Gondek and Father John Starczewski during the pastoral immersion course at St. Vincent de Paul Church Nov. 12.

one of the immersion course instructors.

"It's a different approach to teaching adults," she said. "It's harder for adults to learn, but they pay attention better."

The participants received instruction on Hispanic culture and traditions; vocabulary and grammar; and phrases relevant to pastoral ministry, including celebration of the Mass, administration of the sacraments and common prayers.

Father Robert Ferris, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, said the

program would help him minister to his entire parish, including the 600-700 Hispanics who attend the weekly Spanish Mass.

"It's a disaster to not be able to communicate with your parishioners," he said. "You can't minister to someone unless you speak their language — you can't laugh with them, you can't cry with them."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Fourth-graders bring meals to homeless children

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Fourth-graders from Asheville Catholic School leave treat bags for the children at Our Place, a group home that provides temporary shelter for abused or neglected children. The visit is part of the school's outreach program.

From their place to Our Place

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Fourth-graders at Asheville Catholic School are bringing meals and friendship to needy children.

As part of Asheville Catholic School's Outreach Program, the students are working with Our Place, a home that provides short-term emergency care for up to six youths age 18 years or younger who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.

The students' first visit to the group home on Oct. 26 taught them about children who are less fortunate than they are.

In a question and answer session led by Renaye Owen, Our Place program coordinator, the students learned that some children at the home were abused, neglected or had parents who temporarily could not keep them at

home. Gathered in the living room, the students learned how the home is run, the rules the children follow and chores they perform.

However, due to confidentiality reasons, the two groups of children will never meet. Children typically remain at the home no longer than 90 days, but the Asheville Catholic students hope to make each resident feel special and realize there are other children who care about them.

The students will visit the home on the fourth Wednesday of each month, bring home-cooked meals for the young residents and decorate the home for the appropriate seasons.

With the help of parent volunteers, five of the fourth-graders prepared lasagna and brownies for this month's meal. Students also left small treat bags for the residents on their placemats at the dinner table.

Living the rosary



COURTESY PHOTO

Students participate in a "living rosary" at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Oct. 19. The third annual event was organized by Jacqueline Messick, a member of the parent spirituality committee.

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FUTURE LEADERS

Students enjoy leadership conference experiences

HIGH POINT — For classmates Elise Bergman and Jennifer Lindh, participating in this year's Junior National Young Leaders Conferences in Washington, D.C. and Boston, Mass., helped them start preparing for a future in politics.

The close friends plan to run against each other next year for student council vice president of Immaculate Heart of Mary School. And they couldn't be more excited about it or more supportive of each other.

"We've worked on each other's campaigns before," said Jennifer, a seventh-grader. "We're good friends."

Jennifer said it seemed natural that they both want to excel in school politics and were chosen to participate in the annual Congressional Youth Leadership Council's conferences — in Washington Oct. 9-14 and in Boston Oct. 30-Nov. 4.

Themed "The Legacy of American Leadership," both conferences introduce young people to the tradition of leadership throughout U.S. history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills. Hundreds of middle school students throughout the United States participate in varied educational activities and presentations led by individuals in high-level positions, as well as young community leaders.

"I learned what it takes to be a leader, how to make people feel that they can trust you," said Elisa, also a seventh-grader.

In addition, she said she learned much more about the Salem witch trials, Paul Revere and the Battle of Lexington. People may not know this, Elise said, but Revere did not say, "The British are coming."

What he said was "the regulars are coming" because everyone in the town was British, said Elise.

Jennifer recalled the awe she felt walking through the underground tunnel to reach the U.S. Capitol in Washington, and seeing security officers everywhere. Also she remembered a display of gray stones etched with the names of notable women in U.S. history. One blank stone is reserved for the name of the first female U.S. president.

Jennifer's dream is for her name to be on that stone one day.

Elise hopes to become a pharmacist and to one day start a shelter for animals.

Of six Immaculate Heart of Mary School students chosen by school staff and administrators to attend these leadership conferences this year, only Elise and Jennifer were able to do so. Both girls' families are parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

HOMECOMING IN KERNERSVILLE



COURTESY PHOTO

Honorees for the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame were recognized during Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School's Homecoming weekend Oct. 15-17. Pictured from left are Sister Joan Pearson, Michael Taylor, Jerry Hrenko, Joan Hrenko Novak, Melvin J. Scales, Father Wilbur Thomas and Donald Farrell.

Bishop McGuinness holds induction ceremonies

KERNERSVILLE — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School celebrated Homecoming weekend Oct. 15-17 by having its second annual Athletic Hall of Fame and the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.

In its second year, the Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed a group of outstanding athletes, including Joan Hrenko Novak (class of 1967), Jerry Hrenko (class of 1969) and Michael Taylor (class of 1989).

And for the first time, Bishop McGuinness honored a group of dedicated alumni who have supported their alma mater throughout the years.

"We celebrate the achievements of these inspiring alumni ... they live the school motto of 'Excel That You Might Better Serve' with their dedication to excellence, achievement and service," said Felipe Villalon, chairman of the Alumni Relations Committee.

The honorees for the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame included Donald J. Farrel (class of 1964); Sister of St. Joseph Joan Pearson (class of 1790), coordinator of Hickory Vicariate Hispanic Ministry; Father Wilbur Thomas (class of 1965), pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville; Melvin J. Scales (class of 1972); and Eugene Rossitch Jr. (class of 1977).

The reception and ceremonies took place Oct. 16 in the school dining hall and the common areas where permanent recognition plaques are on display.

"The legacies of all these exceptional individuals are a gift of extraordinary value to the life and the living memory of this school," said George Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness.

The weekend celebrations also included a brief recognition ceremony for the inductees Oct. 15, before the football game against Northside Christian High School. Bishop McGuinness won 19-0.

To wrap up the Homecoming celebration, Mass was celebrated at the school's chapel Oct. 17, followed by the Captain's Choice Golf Tournament at the Meadowlands Golf Course. The golf tournament was organized by the school's athletic department to raise funds for portable bleachers.

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Students raise money for charities

HIGH POINT — In the last several weeks, students and staff of Immaculate Heart of Mary School have raised \$1,330 for community charities.

Money has been sent to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Belmont's House of Mercy, a care facility for people living with advanced AIDS. The fundraisers were part of the school's Outreach Opportunities Program.

Students raised funds by "buying" the opportunity to wear regular clothes to school instead of their uniforms.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Occupation and intrigue in World War II

REVIEWED BY JOHN H. CARROLL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Americans and Western Europeans this past year honored World War II veterans and the 60th anniversary of Europe's liberation with monuments and ceremonies. Books about the period continued to roll off the presses.

"The Twentieth Train: The True Story of the Ambush of the Death Train to Auschwitz" deals with the brutal Nazi occupation of Belgium and the resistance to it. Marion Schreiber, a German journalist, recounts the efforts of an underground group, composed mostly of Jews, to outwit the Gestapo and save as many of their compatriots as possible from roundups and shipments to "the East."

One of their most daring and successful operations was a small-scale attack to halt the 20th shipment of Jews from the camp at Mechelen to Auschwitz. In the ensuing confusion 231 prisoners escaped to freedom. Many did find refuge with their Belgian neighbors.

Schreiber has told an inspiring story of resistance.

"Inside the Vatican of Pius XII" is the memoir of Harold H. Tittmann Jr., a professional American diplomat who resided in Vatican City throughout the time that fascist Italy was at war with the United States and the subsequent German occupation of Italy.

In the early days of World War II, the American government realized that the Vatican would be a valuable listening post in the heart of Europe. But President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew Congress would not authorize formal diplomatic ties. So he asked his friend, businessman Myron Taylor, to be his personal representative to Pope Pius XII. The hostile Italian government allowed Taylor to visit neutral Vatican City.

Tittmann, as Taylor's representative, used papal diplomatic couriers to send reports to Washington where the Vatican had an apostolic delegation.

From his insider view, Tittmann recalls that the Vatican considered the Soviets a greater menace than the Nazis. The Vatican was upset when the United States allied with the Soviet Union because it had hoped that the United States might bring pressure on the Soviets to abandon the persecution of religions.

In contrast, the Vatican looked upon Hitler and the Nazis as an aberration for Germany.

Tittmann observes that the Vatican was aware of the Nazi persecution of Christians and non-Aryans in Germany. At the same time, while officially neutral, the Vatican was also in contact throughout the war with the anti-Nazi resistance in Germany.

And what of reports of Nazi

atrocities?

"Pope Pius XII never did speak out while the war was in progress, so there is no evidence from which to judge whether it was the right thing to do or not," Tittmann writes. "If he had spoken out, would there have been fewer victims or more? There can be no formal answer. Personally I cannot help but feel that the Holy Father chose the better way by not speaking out and thereby saved many lives."

"The Battle for Rome" is a penetrating study on the early stages of the Allied campaign in Italy by American author Robert Katz.

American and British leaders, especially Prime Minister Winston Churchill, considered that an attack on the "soft underbelly of Europe" would liberate Italy, draw German defenders away from the Atlantic wall in France, and pave the way for a drive into the Balkans. However, the soft underbelly proved to be harder than expected.

Katz reviews the long and bloody campaign up the Italian boot from the American landing at Salerno in 1943 to the liberation of Rome in June 1944. He also covers the German occupation of Rome, the Italian Resistance, American intelligence operations, and Vatican diplomatic relations, including reports from Tittmann.

Katz is very critical regarding the silence of Pope Pius XII about the Nazi deportation of Rome's Jews to Auschwitz and the German reprisal against the Romans after a Resistance attack of German SS troops. However, he admits that many Jews found shelter in Rome's Catholic institutions and churches.

In 1974 Katz was taken to court in Rome for defaming the memory of Pope Pius XII with allegations he made in an earlier book, "Death in Rome." Katz was found guilty after a criminal trial. He received a 14-month prison sentence, but the verdict was overturned on appeal, and then dismissed by the Italian Supreme Court.

"The Battle for Rome" is based on declassified documents, interviews and memoirs. Katz is a serious scholar of the period and his book will be widely read.

Some readers will find his criticisms offset by the observations of diplomats or by statements from international Jewish leaders praising the actions of Pope Pius XII. Others will find that these new World War II books add information to the discussion of the period without putting to rest the old controversies.

Carroll is a veteran of the World War II European theater, where he served as a rifleman in the First Army.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 28, 2004

Nov. 28, First Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:1-2, 4-9
- 2) Romans 13:11-14a
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

ADVENT IS TO WAKE UP FAITH

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Technically I wasn't asleep. While I shivered in the chill of a darkened bedroom closet, pulling on corduroy trousers and wool socks, my wife and children were nestled in their warm, cozy beds, snoring softly. They were asleep, not I.

None of my neighbors who might have seen me in the ghostly fluorescent glow of my carport light, fumbling in my jacket pocket for car keys and stacking books in the back seat, would have mistaken me for a sleeper. Other drivers would have noted that my eyes were open, my hands responsive to the road.

I was legally awake. But mentally, I was fast asleep. It wasn't until I was

about half an hour from the start of the class — way too late to turn around — that I thought about the painstaking hours I'd spent the day before searching the Internet for pictures of Gothic cathedrals to illustrate some key points.

It was like waking from sleep to realize I'd forgotten to bring a projector. The compelling images I'd found to enliven my presentation were trapped in the memory of my computer.

Many of us spend much of our lives in a half-awake state. There are so many demands on our time, so many voices and images clamoring for our attention, that we revert to a kind of sleepwalking in order simply to navigate the days.

Often we become so good at paying partial attention that we forget what it feels like to be really awake, really focused on what is immediately before us. That is the danger against which Christ warns us in Sunday's Gospel.

The pre-eminent task of Advent is waking up. In a season that ramps up the customary chatter of consumerism to deafening levels, it is an especially important call.

Questions:

What is one practical way I can live more wakefully during the Advent season? What are some routines in my life I can alter to help me listen for God's presence?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 21 - NOVEMBER 27

Sunday (Christ the King), 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; **Monday (St. Cecilia),** Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday (St. Clement I, St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Pro),** Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday (Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions),** Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday (St. Catherine of Alexandria, Thanksgiving Day, USA),** Sirach 50:22-24, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Luke 17:11-19; **Friday,** Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday,** Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4

Sunday (First Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; **Monday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 4:2-6, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (St. Andrew),** Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (St. Francis Xavier),** Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (St. John of Damascus),** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8.

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For Caviezel, acting not just a career but a calling

Catholic actor stars in 'I Am David'

BY JOSEPH PRONECHEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TRUMBULL, Conn. — Although Jim Caviezel never set out to be an actor, acting has become not just a career for him, but a calling.

Caviezel has become well-known for his portrayal of Christ in "The Passion of the Christ." He discussed his latest role in "I Am David," his acting and his Catholic faith during a short break from projects in Los Angeles.

A winner of numerous awards at several film festivals, including best picture and audience favorite, "I Am David" opens in theaters Dec. 3.

The story focuses on a 12-year-old boy in 1950s' Bulgaria who escapes from a Soviet concentration camp.

"I play the boy's mentor in the camp," Caviezel said about his role as Johannes. "I guide him throughout."

He explained that the story parallels "Man's Search for Meaning," Viktor Frankl's book about those who did and didn't survive in World War II concentration camps.

Both deal with "people who find (that) their joy and meaning and purpose in life, and ultimately peace, don't come from an exterior environment," he said. "What kind of joy would you find in a Nazi concentration camp as he (Frankl) did? But he was able to find it. Even if you are living in that prison, you can experience freedom."

In "I Am David," he said, "my character helps the boy understand that the strength of being who he is comes from within. It comes from an understanding of God."

Caviezel speaks honestly about what his faith means in his life.

"That's fundamental," he said. "Faith is not something you do just on Sunday — although that's a requirement. Faith is a way of life. That's really what it is with me."

His faith includes a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

When Christ spoke from the cross, "he said, 'This is your mother,' so I'm obeying him," Caviezel said. "She's the greatest example of any human being who's ever existed on this earth. Jesus is God. But he exists completely and fully in her like no one else has ever done."

"I'm not embarrassed by my mother," Caviezel added, "as I think

many Catholics are."

He summed up his devotion with a reference to St. Louis de Montfort, author of "True Devotion to Mary." The saint "clearly says" that Jesus said, "By loving my mother you do not love me any less, but by loving her more, you love me more," Caviezel said. "I go by that."

How does his faith relate to his moviemaking?

"I look for talented individuals I can work with," he said. "I look for redemption in stories. I was trained to find truth, (so) I look for people who are good and talented, regardless of their religion."

He mentioned that Mel Gibson did the same for "The Passion." Faith shouldn't give us "an elitist attitude," Caviezel added.

The actor wasn't concerned that controversy over "The Passion" would have any negative effect on his career.

"Controversy is a part of what happened to him when he was up on the cross," Caviezel said. "He was controversial because he spoke the truth, and it hurts."

The actor said he didn't know who the hypocrites were back then, "but I can tell you who they are today. I know my own hypocrisy, all the more so after playing him."

Caviezel pointed to those "who go to bed with Susie on Friday, go to church on Sunday and say the blood (of Christ) washes it away. You don't do that to your best friend," he said.

He stressed that such hypocrisy is a bad example that only turns others away from accepting the faith. "It comes down to what you do, not what you say," he noted. "Faith without works is dead."

"Every generation always has vice," he continued. "The problem with this generation is a lack of courage. You see a heck of a lot of 'guys' out there, but you don't see a lot of men. Stand up and be a man, a warrior."

"Every young boy wants to become a man," he added. "Our faith teaches us there is no greater love that to lay down one's life. Every boy wants to do this. Then tie that into your own marriage. A man loves his wife so much he's willing to lay his life down for her."

Has playing Christ in "The Passion" affected his spiritual life? "It helped me to pray in a much deeper way," Caviezel reflected. "As far as how it affected my life, time will tell."

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Study: Abortion linked to later anxiety problems

ABORTION, from page 1

prior history of anxiety. After controlling for race and age at the time of the survey, researchers found that, compared to women who carried the unintended pregnancy to term, women who aborted were 30 percent more likely to subsequently report all the symptoms associated with a diagnosis for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

If the excess cases found in the study are projected onto the entire population of women having abortions, there may be as many as 40,000 or more GAD cases per year attributable to abortion. Since many women participating in the NSFG do not report their past abortions, the results may underestimate the full impact of abortion reactions.

"Our study suggests that clinicians treating women with anxiety problems may find it useful to inquire about their clients' reproductive histories," said Jesse Cougle, the lead author of the study.

"Women struggling with unresolved issues related to a past abortion may benefit significantly from counseling that addresses this problem," said Cougle.

Abortion advocates have frequently asserted that carrying an unintended pregnancy to term is more emotionally harmful to women than abortion. But this new study linking abortion to general anxiety disorder comes on the heels of nearly a dozen other studies published in the last three years linking abortion to increased risk of depression, substance abuse, suicidal behavior and death from heart disease.

Because of the increasing concern about the mental health effects of abortion on women, legislation has been introduced in Congress to expand funding for treatment programs and research in this area.

In their examination of data, Cougle and his colleagues considered women to be at risk for GAD if they reported feeling worried and anxious for at least six months about things that were not serious or were unlikely to happen. They also had to experience other symptoms required for a diagnosis of GAD, such as irritability, fatigue, difficulty sleeping, a pounding or racing heart or feelings of unreality.

Researchers excluded women who reported having experienced a period of prolonged anxiety prior to or at the same time as their first pregnancy. Women who aborted a pregnancy after delivering their first pregnancy were also excluded from the study.

There were also greater differences in rates of generalized anxiety between aborting and delivering women who were under the age of 20 than there were for women who were older at the time of the pregnancy. This may be explained, researchers said, by other studies showing that older women are more likely to conceal past abortions in surveys and that abortion is a more stressful experience for younger women.

"Some studies have found that younger women are more likely to experience emotional distress following abortion than older women," said Cougle. "Younger women may feel less control over their decision and may abort under pressure from their parents and partner."

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1968, Pope Paul VI issued his encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae* ("Human Life"), which reemphasized the church's teaching that it is always intrinsically wrong to use artificial birth control to prevent new human beings from coming into existence. Artificial birth control is "any action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act [sexual intercourse], or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible" (*Humanae Vitae* 14). This includes sterilization, condoms and other barrier methods, spermicides, coitus interruptus (withdrawal method), the Pill, and all other methods of artificial contraception.

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Archdiocese of Atlanta
680 W. Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30308-1984



Another step



Patrick Cahill, Patrick Hoare and Patrick Toole (back row), seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte, were among 15 seminarians received into the rite of Ministry of Reader by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook, Pa., Nov. 4. Msgr. Michael Fitzgerald, vice rector, and Father Joseph Prior, rector, stand beside Cardinal Rigali.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Nov. 21 is the feast of the Presentation of Mary. A church was built in Jerusalem in honor of this mystery. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church. Though unhistorical, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

Belmont Abbey monks honored during jubilee celebration

Fathers Kessinger, Oetgen and Baumstein mark 135 years

BELMONT — Hundreds attended Belmont Abbey's jubilee celebration as three members of its monastery celebrated anniversaries totaling 135 years of combined faith, dedication and service.

Members of the monastic community and their families, as well as faculty, administration and staff of Belmont Abbey College, commemorated the occasion with a special Mass and luncheon Oct. 24.

Benedictine Father David Kessinger celebrated 50 years professed as a member of Belmont Abbey. Over the years, Father Kessinger has made numerous contributions to not only fellow members of the monastery, but also to Belmont Abbey College and the greater community.

With a degree in library science, Father Kessinger maintained and developed the college's library holdings, serving as its librarian for a number of years. He has served as chaplain at Holy Angels Nursery and at Sacred Heart Convent, and continues to take special care of the perpetual adoration chapel on the college campus, and is advisor to the campus chapter of the Legion of Mary.

Benedictine Father John Oetgen celebrated 60 years. In the monastic community, Father Oetgen's confreres have consistently entrusted



Benedictine Father John Oetgen (center) holds a distinguished alumnus of the year award during Belmont Abbey College's jubilee celebration Oct. 24. Pictured are (from left) Abbot Placid Solari; Dr. William Thierfelder, college president; Father Oetgen; Michael McGuinnis, alumni board president.

him with positions of influence and leadership.

Father Oetgen served as professor of English and speech at Belmont Abbey College, and has introduced generations of Abbey students to the beauties of Shakespeare. He has directed and performed in productions of the Abbey Players.

Additionally, Father Oetgen has also served as assistant dean of students, and was president of Belmont Abbey College from 1960 to 1964.

Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein also took part in the jubilee celebration, marking 25 years ordained.

Father Baumstein has taught at Belmont Abbey College and enriched the lives of the monastic and college communities with his musical talent over the years. An avid patron of the Abbey Players, he has performed in several productions on the abbey stage.

Father Baumstein is a certified archivist and his considerable skill in this field has made a substantial and enduring contribution to Belmont Abbey. Organizing both the monastery and college archives, Father Baumstein published "My Lord of Belmont," a biography of Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid, the first abbot of Belmont Abbey and a significant figure in the history of the Catholic Church in North Carolina.

Father Baumstein also achieved the distinction of having the central portion of Belmont Abbey's campus placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College consists of the college, monastery and Abbey Basilica. Nearly a thousand students representing more than 18 countries and 34 states call the abbey home.

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Note: The suggested offering is \$12 for each Bible requested.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Seven U.S. presidents on Thanksgiving

Gratitude is a way of life, not a day

In 1795, President George Washington (Episcopalian) asked the nation to observe a day of Thanksgiving.

He asked the people to gather in their churches and to humbly and fervently pray to God that he might prolong the blessings on this nation to us; to ask God to imprint in our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligation to him for the blessings. He closed his plea with these remarkable words: "And finally to impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves, to the whole family of humankind."

Abraham Lincoln (nondenominational, occasionally attended Presbyterian church) wrote: "I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, those at sea, those sojourning in foreign lands to observe a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

Theodore Roosevelt (Dutch Reformed) declared: "We live in an easier time and in more plentiful times than our forefathers, the men who with rugged strength faced the rugged days; and yet, the dangers to national life are quite as great now as at any previous time in our history. It is fitting that we set apart a day for praise and thanksgiving to the Giver of Good."

Woodrow Wilson (Presbyterian) said: "In a spirit of devotion and stewardship we should give thanks in our hearts and dedicate ourselves to the service of God's merciful and loving purposes."

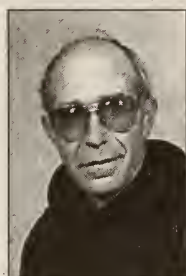
Franklin D. Roosevelt (Episcopalian) proclaimed: "To set aside in the autumn of each year a day which to give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of life is a wise and reverent custom."

Harry S. Truman (Baptist) had this exhortation: "May we have the vision and courage to accept and discharge honorably the responsibilities inherent in our strength by consecrating ourselves to the attainment of a better world, and by offering thanks to God for the bounties vouchsafed us and by rededicating ourselves to the preservation of the blessings of liberty envisaged by our forefathers in the preamble of our Constitution."

Dwight Eisenhower (Presbyterian) expressed his view by saying: "As a nation much blessed, we feel impelled at harvest time to follow the tradition handed down by our Pilgrim Fathers of pausing from our labors for one day to

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM CAP.



render thanks to Almighty God for His bounties."

It seems to me that our presidents mention God frequently as a source of our thanksgiving and stress the importance of what we have accomplished. That's very good. True thanksgiving, however, takes shape in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican.

It is rather sobering to remember that the one person Jesus mentions as going up to the temple to give thanks is picked out, not for praise but for censure. The Pharisee began his prayer with words that are on countless lips at Thanksgiving time, "God, I thank Thee." Yet, he left the temple with divine disapproval.

Are we not guilty of thanking God that we are not like other people? Let us beware of our boasting. My understanding of Thanksgiving is not theology or anthropology; it is doxology and praxis. Gratitude is not a single act of kindness; it is a way of life. Thanksgiving sometimes may be filled with false pride, rather than true humility.

There is a story about a singer, well known in California, who was spending a few days of vacation with his wife and his four children in North Carolina. One of those days was rainy and they were tired of staying inside, so they decided to go to see a movie. When they arrived at the theater, the lights were on and there were about 10 people already seated. When the singer and his family appeared, all 10 jumped to their feet and applauded loudly.

The singer was thrilled to be recognized so far away from California. A man came over and shook his hand, and the singer said, "I am just amazed that you should recognize me so far away from home."

"Recognize you? I haven't a clue who you are," said the man. "All I know is that the manager of the movie house said he would not show the film unless six more people showed up."

For me, thanksgiving is being grateful and humble. What is thanksgiving for you?

Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Pope greets families of Italians killed in Iraq one

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II gave a special greeting to the families of the 19 Italians killed in Iraq a year ago when a car bomb exploded in an Italian military complex.

In his Nov. 17 general audience at the Vatican, he honored the 17 military personnel and two civilians "who lost their lives at An Nasiriyah while carrying out their mission of peace."

After the audience, the families greeted the pope and showed him the photographs of their sons, husbands, fathers or brothers who died when suicide attackers drove an explosives-laden vehicle into the Italian headquarters Nov. 12, 2003.

Pope John Paul looked with interest, grasped hands and touched the heads of the children.

Italy has some 2,700 troops in Iraq, the third-largest military presence, after the United States and England. The Italian government has said from the beginning of its engage-

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II



ment that theirs is a peacekeeping and not a combat mission.

In his talk at the audience, the pope said that the harvest and Thanksgiving period gives an opportunity for unity and overcoming divisions.

The phrase "the earth has yielded its fruits" from Psalm 67 was a hymn of praise to God "for the gifts of the earth" that unites "all men and women of every nation," the pope said.

The thanksgiving message means that "walls of hostility and hatred must be demolished so that the family of the children of God can gather in harmony around one table," he said.

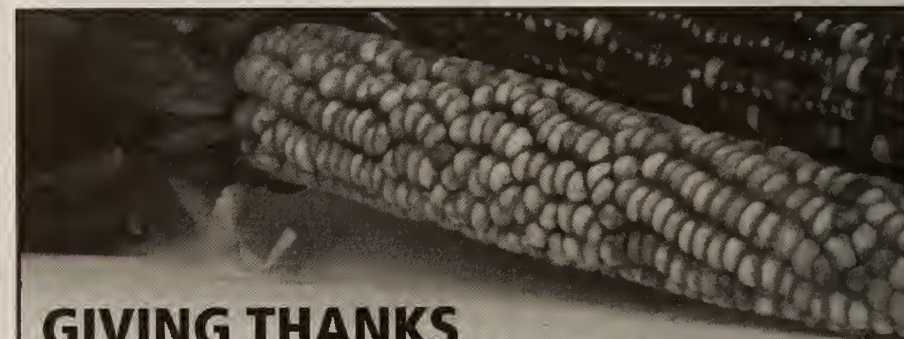
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To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

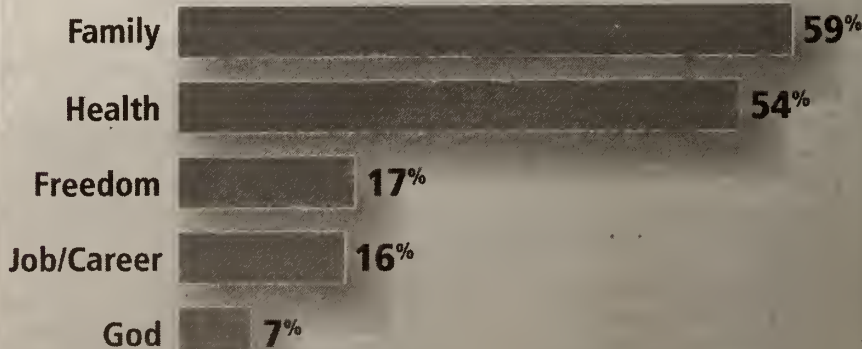
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GIVING THANKS

Americans cite family most when considering what they are grateful for at the Thanksgiving Day holiday



Source: Gallup Poll, 2000

© 2004 CNS Graphics

The Good News vs. the news

Media coverage isn't always bad

A question came up again during a meeting at the chancery last week. I've heard it before in other meetings and in casual conversations with diocesan workers. "Why is the news media always so negative?"

Actually, I've been answering this question since I began working as a radio news reporter during my college years at East Carolina University in the 1970s. The quick answer is the familiar one: bad news sells. People have an endless fascination with the problems, conflicts, contradictions and failures that others suffer.

But there are a few things that we Catholics should keep in mind whenever we read or watch news accounts of church activity. Here's a short list.

It isn't all bad.

It may seem that reporters swim in a never-ending stream of bad news. But the opposite is true: much more good news than bad about the church is reported.

As a communications director for a public school system, I once tracked newspaper coverage for 18 months. During that time, 85 percent of stories reported about the schools were positive.

A quick review of coverage of the diocese shows a similar trend. Of course if you ask people their impressions of the public schools or the church, the negatives are always based on the few bad

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



stories that are published.

It's nothing personal.

People often believe individual reporters and news organization are on a personal crusade to discredit them. That usually is not the case. News reporters deal with people in crisis all the time. After a while most reporters get used to the suspicion and anger that can come from people they are seeking to quote. It's not supposed to influence the neutral attitude they should have about the people they cover.

As a reporter, people often assumed that I was evil incarnate because they didn't like the story I was doing about their company or organization. I was threatened with lawsuits and physical beatings and once saw stars when I was punched on the chin by a relative of a suspect in a murder investigation. I never reported the altercation.

It will soon go away.

News organizations are always on

the lookout for bad news. Once they find and report it, they are usually done and they move on. The sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church is an excellent example of this.

In the weeks leading up to the February release of the John Jay Study, negative news stories were frequent and caustic. Once the exhaustive findings of the study were released, and it was obvious that the church was telling everything it knew about the last 50 years, the coverage at the national level subsided.

Individually, many dioceses are still dealing with the fallout from the crisis and that kind of coverage may seem endless. The Diocese of Charlotte has been fortunate with few scandal-related incidents and follow-up coverage has virtually disappeared.

Most reporters are more passionate about accuracy than they are about the woe their stories create; the best way to deal with them is to act professionally and to get any bad news out fast. The Diocese of Charlotte does this and enjoys relatively good news coverage as a result.

But the diocese can't change the spots on this leopard. We will always be cautious with what we say and will always offer the secular news media a Catholic perspective that will hopefully inspire the faithful and enlighten all others.

And the next time someone asks me why the news media is always so negative, I'm going to have a new answer. The church has cornered the market on the Good News and that doesn't leave the media with much else.

David Hains is director of communication for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at drhains@charlottediocese.org.

History's method of keeping track of the years

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. How did we determine to use the initials B.C. and A.D. for before Christ and after (Christ's) death? This couldn't have been the way people determined dates before Jesus was born. How did they keep track of years in those days? (Florida)

A. In Old Testament times and before that, the Jews, as most other cultures, usually based their calendars on a particular ruler or king ("in the 11th year of the reign of King Darius") or major events such as the Babylonian exile in the sixth century B.C. (Before Christ, in English).

The religious calendar in use by Jews today, supposedly based on the time from the creation of the world, began to be used only about 1,000 years ago. The "date" of creation was computed by adding up all the references to years and ages in the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament), especially the book of Genesis.

Early Christians employed a variety of methods to record history. Some used local Greek calendars. Others followed the most common Roman method of dating events from the foundation of the city of Rome about 753 B.C.

Some Christians counted years from the supposed date of the birth of Abraham and still others from a program of taxation under Emperor Diocletian in the third century.

Our method of dating events from before or after the birth of our Lord came as a byproduct of attempts to settle the bitter controversy between the Eastern and Western Churches over the date of Easter. A Roman monk called Dionysius the Little invented this way of dating in the sixth century, using the designations B.C. and A.D. (Anno Domini, the year of the Lord).

Unfortunately many historical sources available to us today were unknown in his time. Using only the information at hand, he set the beginning of the Christian era, the birth of Christ, six or eight years later than it should have been.

Thus, the birth of Christ took place, according to our calendar, about the year 7 B.C.

Only centuries later was this new way of numbering years adopted even in the Christian world. The fact that it took hold at all is greatly due to the eighth-century English Benedictine monk and historian, St. Bede, who used this method of dating in his monumental "History of the English People" and other historical writings.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Thankful for what?

There are many people who might argue that we have less to be thankful for this Thanksgiving than in the past. It is not ingratitude on their part. Rather, it is the fact that present times contain so many uncertainties, tensions and fears.

A few years ago, we knew terrorists existed, but experiencing terrorism in our country hadn't hit home. Our freedom to move about was less hindered, and very little was heard about dirty bombs or chemical warfare. The Army was more interested in keeping the peace than fighting bloody battles, and it is no exaggeration to say that our minds and the environment were more at peace.

Before the last two presidential elections, we knew that Americans were divided, but not to the extent that we now know they are. Suddenly we realize how difficult it is to follow the motto that "in unity there is strength."

It was not until recently that we realized to what depths corruption can sink at the highest levels of the business world and the suffering this can cause millions of innocent people.

We were excited and proud about the new world of the Internet, only to

learn that it has a dark side as well as a bright side. Computer viruses and identity theft are just two of the evils it has spawned.

Another motto dear to us has also come under fire: "The truth will make you free."

It is becoming more and more difficult to tell who is speaking the truth. Noted news stations have retracted statements they originally swore were the absolute truth. Respected analysts report that the truth espoused by aspiring politicians isn't always that truthful. Crafty lawyers and advisers have raised twisted truth to a new and dangerous art form.

Even some religious leaders, who symbolize the divine essence of truth, have been less than straightforward.

This is the tip of the iceberg of woes that makes us wonder what there is to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

In life there are always two sides of a coin. Wherever there is woe there is also happiness. When we paraphrase the happiness of this Thanksgiving in terms of the Beatitudes, they teach us that:

—Happy are they who see imperfections in life as new, enervating chal-

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



lenges to be responded to rather than as hopeless woes to succumb to.

—Happy are they who are developing a new prudence to meet the challenges of our post-modern age.

—Happy are they who understand that war, untruthfulness, deceit and division are works of darkness that have existed from the beginning of time and who are formulating stronger virtues to counter them.

—Happy are they who are uneasy with unrest and seek new means of achieving peace.

—Happy are they who forever are turning to God and reinterpreting God's wisdom for our new age.

—Happy are all who keep the nation together with a steadfast spirit of faith, hope, love, prudence, understanding, fortitude and patience.

Ah, yes, as long as this spirit is alive, we have much for which to be thankful.

Christ the King Church overcomes obstacles to serve Cleveland County Catholics



PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

A dedication Mass was held Nov. 9, 2004 at Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain to celebrate months of renovation and refurbishing.

KINGS MOUNTAIN — While history of a Catholic presence in the Cleveland County town of Shelby dates back to around 1884, it took until the mid-1930s for Mass to be regularly celebrated in local residents' homes. The first Catholic family in the Kings Mountain area, southeast of Shelby along Highway 74, is said to have settled there in the mid-1930s.

Today, parishioners of Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain can reflect on the evangelical spirit of their faithful predecessors that brought a Catholic church home.

For a quarter-century, Catholic families living in Kings Mountain had to travel to Shelby or Gastonia for Mass and catechetical instruction. As that number of families neared 20 by 1960, Father Thomas Clements, then-pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby, began celebrating Mass in the Kings Mountain American Legion Hall.

The following year, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh established an apos-

tolitic center in town for training newly ordained priests. On the one-acre property stood the Associate Reform Presbyterian Church, along with other buildings to be used by the Catholic congregation for worship, educational and social purposes. A new Catholic parish was born.

With the acquisition of the property came almost immediate obstacles for the parish. The church buildings and other edifices, having been constructed decades earlier, were suffering from disrepair.

By 1965, the apostolic training center was relocated from Kings Mountain, and the church family reverted to mission status. Having sold what they could of the church structures in 1973, parishioners began searching for a new, permanent spiritual home.

Local Episcopal and Lutheran con-

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

714 Stone Street
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
(704) 739-3214

Vicariate: Gastonia

Pastor: Father Eric Houseknecht

Number of Households: 49



Father Eric Houseknecht

gregations welcomed their Catholic neighbors to use their church facilities for Masses throughout the 1970s. With Bishop Michael J. Begley, shepherd of the newly established Diocese of Charlotte, the mission continued to search for a site on which to build a new church. Having petitioned St. Joseph since 1960, when sisters from the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart arrived to teach Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes, the congregation continued to call on the intercession of the Catholic Church's patron into the early 1980s.

On March 19, 1981 — the feast day of St. Joseph — four acres of land were purchased in town. Two decades earlier, a pair of Mission Helpers sisters had buried a medal of St. Joseph on that same piece of property, echoing the hope of local parishioners that a Catholic church would someday be built in Kings Mountain.

The congregation received financial assistance from the Catholic Extension Society, the diocese, parishioners and friends, and ground was broken for the new church in September 1982. Present at the ceremony were Father (now

Msgr.) Felix Kelaher, pastor; and Rev. Gerald Weeks, former pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, where the Catholic mission has celebrated its liturgies for a time.

The first Mass in the new Christ the King Church was celebrated in July 1983. Forty-three families were registered as parishioners at the time. The church was dedicated on Nov. 29, 1983 — the feast day of Christ the King.

Much development occurred during the pastorate of Msgr. William Wellein, who arrived to minister in Shelby and the mission in Kings Mountain beginning in late 1984. The lower level of the facility was completed, thus allowing space for CCD classes and other catechetical and social activities. A wall hanging of Christ the King was placed on the large brick wall in the sanctuary. The pastor also added to the landscape a statue of Jesus, which he had obtained from a Wilmington movie studio while serving as pastor on the Carolina coast years earlier.

Father Carl Kaltreider became pastor of St. Mary and Christ the King churches in June 1996. Church life was soon highlighted by the presence of the Ladies Guild, various faith formation efforts, the parish council and Knights of Columbus joint council.

In October 1999, Father Eric Houseknecht became pastor of St. Mary and Christ the King churches. In 2004, he oversaw months of major renovations and refurbishing to correct structural and flooding damage. Upgrades were made throughout the church, including the addition of two new meeting rooms and a new reconciliation room.

On Nov. 9, 2004, Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the renovated Christ the King Church.

The contemporary-style Christ the King Church continues to open its doors to resident and visiting faithful in Kings Mountain. Memories of the fervent missionary efforts of Cleveland County Catholics to establish a church on their eastern border remain strong. And somewhere in the surrounding soil, perhaps, still lies a medal of St. Joseph, the saint whose intercession was called upon in the hopes of establishing a new church.

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|PAGE 4

NOVEMBER 26, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 9

Bishops end meeting early after votes on marriage, unity, abuse data

*Bishop Skylstad of Spokane elected as
new USCCB president*

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Finishing up their business a day earlier than originally scheduled, the U.S. bishops concluded their fall general meeting in Washington Nov. 17 with a flurry of votes on a national catechism for adults, a multiyear pastoral initiative on marriage and a historic decision to join a national ecumenical forum.

On a busy final day of their Nov. 15-17 meeting, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also voted to gather annual in-

formation about new sex abuse accusations against Catholic clergy and other church workers; approved three Spanish-language liturgical changes; and accepted a proposal to streamline the 2005 diocesan audits on sex abuse matters.

But a three-page report from the bishops' Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians — originally scheduled for public discussion by the conference — was presented in written form without comment

See BISHOPS, page 7

FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS

Participants reflect on faith,
sacred imagination

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE JUNALUSKA — "A feather on the breath of God" — sacred imagination for St. Hildegard of Bingen, 11th century abbess, mystic, writer, healer and adviser to popes.

Sacred imagination means using such devices as metaphor to image how the sacred is at work in one's life.

"We are shaped by the metaphors that we choose," Diane Lampitt said. "We're shaped by the words that we employ."

See FIRE, page 9

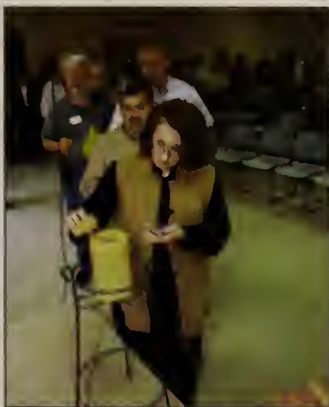


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

People attending Fire in the Mountains 2004 light candles to take back to their parishes, symbolizing spreading the light of Christ.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Knights of Columbus color guard processes into Our Lady of Grace Church at the start of a Mass celebrating Piedmont Council 939's 100th anniversary Nov. 13.

Piedmont Council 939 commemorates 100 years of service

**BISHOP CURLIN
CALLS KNIGHTS TO
A REDEDICATION
OF SERVICE**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GREENSBORO — Thanking the Knights of Columbus for their hard work over the last 100 years, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin also called upon them to recommit themselves for the future.

"Today is not just a thanksgiving; let's make this

a time of consecration for the years yet to come," he said.

Bishop Curlin, state chaplain to the Knights of Columbus, was the homilist during a Mass honoring the 100-year anniversary of Piedmont Council 939 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Nov. 13.

The Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and other priests, was followed by a dinner party at a local hotel, where the council received a 100-year award from David Onofrio, Knights of Columbus

See KNIGHTS, page 5

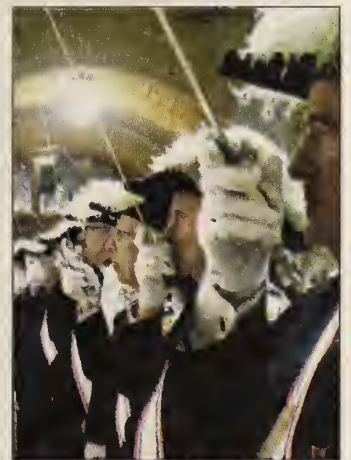


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Knights stand with swords during the Mass.

Culture Watch

'SpongeBob' delivers positive, kid-friendly message

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Perspectives

Americans must search for truth; accepting scorn

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Angelic carvings

Sculptor carves three angels out of dying trees

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

'WALKING MIRACLE'



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL WOJCIK, THE BEACON

Elka Franco, a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson, N.J., pulls her wheeled book bag to class at Mary Help of Christians Academy in North Haledon, N.J. The 14-year-old girl had a brain aneurysm July 3 and was in a coma for four days. She is now back attending classes.

New Jersey Catholic girl recovers from coma, says faith helped her

NORTH HALEDON, N.J. (CNS) — After being unable to speak for several weeks, 14-year-old Elka Franco shocked everyone by laughing.

Though the laughter was faint, it was music to her mother's ears.

"The laugh was very quiet and soft, but it was something," said Blanca Franco, Elka's mother, recalling her daughter's recovery four weeks after she suffered a massive brain aneurysm in July.

"Someone told a joke. After that, Elka couldn't stop laughing," Blanca said.

The outcome could have been much worse. Initially, Elka was in a coma for four days. Her doctors feared she could die and told family members to wait and pray.

Today, after countless hours of physical, occupational and speech therapies, the teen-age girl has regained most of her lost motor functions.

In September, she started her freshman year at Mary Help of Christians Academy in North Haledon. Although she started school slightly later than the rest of her class, she was ahead of the schedule her doctors predicted.

And as she gets around to her classes, the aneurysm's effects are barely noticeable except for a slight limp.

"I'm walking faster now," she said, but she added that she is still slower than her classmates when it comes to taking notes in class.

Salesian Sister Margaret Wilhelm, the school's principal, describes Elka as a "walking miracle."

Her brush with death happened suddenly when she went swimming with family and friends. She became extremely ill and had to be rushed to the hospital.

Msgr. Mark Giordani, rector of St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson, hurried to the hospital to see his parishioner — Elka is an altar server at the cathedral. She also sings and plays guitar at Masses and is involved in a small faith community.

"I was in shock. It was unbelievable," Msgr. Giordani said. "Elka is a remarkable, intelligent and responsible girl who wants to serve Mass and loves helping people, especially the poor. She's so full of energy, and all of a sudden, she's lying in a hospital bed, motionless."

Elka returned home in late August and she continues to undergo physical, occupational and speech therapies. She is playing her guitar and hoping to get back to hip-hop dancing lessons.

Above all, she has a new outlook. As she puts it: "I want to thank God for giving me another chance at life."

Catholic school students on hand as Bush spares life of turkey

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Students at Immaculate Conception School in Northeast Washington had a rare opportunity to watch in person as President George W. Bush issued a pardon to stop a scheduled execution.

In ceremonies at the White House Rose Garden Nov. 17, Bush issued an executive pardon to Biscuits, the national Thanksgiving turkey presented to him by the National Turkey Federation.

With the action, Biscuits was guaranteed to live out his life at Frying Pan Park in Virginia.

Immaculate Conception students were the only students in the nation invited to the ceremony. After pardoning Biscuits, Bush shook hands with the students and posed for pictures with them.

Bush offered a special greeting to the students, calling them his "special guests" and praising the school and parish for distributing food to the needy in their community.

"This is the 40th year Immaculate Conception has provided food baskets to families in the Shaw neighborhood, to make sure they have plenty to eat for their Thanksgiving dinner," Bush said. "For the sake of our feathered guests, I'm not going to elaborate on the contents of those baskets."

During the ceremony, Bush reminded his guests that this was an election year, joking that Biscuits won a "neck-and-neck" vote to earn the title of national Thanksgiving turkey.

"It came down to a few battleground states. It was a tough contest, and it turned out some 527 organizations got involved, including Barnyard Animals for Truth," the president teased. "There was a scurrilous film that came out, 'Fahrenheit 375 Degrees at 10 Minutes Per Pound.' Now, it's a time for healing."

Bush also reminded Americans that Thanksgiving Day is set aside to honor and thank God.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Sgt. Irwin Carmichael from the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department will present a *crime prevention seminar* Dec. 1 at 12 p.m. in the new life center banquet room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For details call the church office at (704) 548-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Al Barbarino, a lay apostolate Franciscan of the Padre Pio Shelter in New York, will offer a free concert and spiritual reflection focusing on "*Living as Christian Catholics in our Everyday Lives*" Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — On Jan. 15, a chartered bus will leave from Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., in Belmont at 7 a.m. and at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., in Charlotte at 7:30 a.m. to attend the *Rally and March for Life* in Raleigh. For more information, contact Jan Rogers (704) 825-9600.

BELMONT — The *Advent Supper-Study Series* begins Dec. 1 with dinner at 6 p.m. and catechesis for all ages 6:45-7:30 p.m. Father Zschmidt will speak on the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the parish reconciliation service Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 8, Mass for the Feast

of the Immaculate Conception at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 15 and 22, dinner at 6 p.m. Dennis Teall-Fleming will present a two-part series on John XXIII's encyclical "*Pacem in Terris*" (Peace on Earth), 6:45-7:30 p.m. each evening (see <http://www.justpeace.org/docu.htm> for this encyclical). Copies of PIT will be available, and, as with dinner, there is no cost or pre-registration necessary. Childcare provided by some of the parish's high school youth.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will celebrate the arrival of the *Guadalupe Torch* Dec. 1, with a fiesta at 5 p.m. followed by a Spanish mass at 7 p.m. A send-off ceremony will be held Dec. 2 at 7 a.m. Father Jack Kelly will bless a banner and the torchbearer during its stay at IHM. For more information, contact Diane Jakubsen at (336) 454-5640 or e-mail writesrc1@aol.com.

HIGH POINT — A *Christmas Musical* sponsored by Immaculate Heart of Mary School will be held Dec. 14. The show is free of charge to area senior citizens. The performance begins at 10 a.m. in the school gym at 605 Barbee Ave. Refreshments will be served following the show. This year IHM kindergarten through fifth grade will present "Noelle the First," and middle school students will stage a modern version of "A Christmas Carol." The show is part of the school's community outreach program.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says Christians, Muslims Jews say God calls people to love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The heart of the message proclaimed by Christians, Muslims and Jews is that God calls all people to follow the path of love and justice, Pope John Paul II said.

"May God help us follow this path with perseverance and patience," the pope said at a Nov. 18 audience with eight religious leaders from Azerbaijan.

The Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders — led by Sheik Allahshurkur Pashazade, Azerbaijan's leading cleric — came to the Vatican to thank the pope for his 2002 visit to Azerbaijan.

The pope praised Sheik Pashazade as a man who has worked "to build peace in a region where, unfortunately, violent conflicts continue."

And he praised the country's tiny Jewish community for giving witness

to the possibilities of "coexistence and fraternal collaboration" in a country where more than 93 percent of the people are Muslim.

Only about 300 Catholics live in the country of 8 million people.

Pope John Paul said he hoped the visit of the religious leaders would be a sign for the world that "tolerance is possible and is a civil value that lays the basis for wider human, civil and social development."

"No one has the right to present or use religions as an instrument of intolerance or as a means of aggression, violence and death," he said.

"On the contrary," the pope said, "their friendship and mutual esteem, if also supported by a commitment to tolerance by those who govern, is a rich resource for authentic progress and peace."

For more information, call IHM at (336) 884-5212.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The *St. Aloysius Contemporary Choir* will present a free concert at the church, 921 Second St., NE, following the parish dinner at 6:45 p.m., Dec. 1. The focus of this musical reflection will be on Advent and music that helps us to prepare for this joyous and holy season. For more information call Kellie Sheets at (828) 327-2341.

HENDERSONVILLE — The Knights of Columbus Council 7184 and Immaculate Conception Church's pro-life committee invite everyone to participate in eucharistic adoration and a special pro-life prayer service Dec. 2, 6-9 p.m. in Our Lady of the Angels Chapel of Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Avenue, West. For more information, call Don Franz at (828) 697-8194 or Mary Dufner at (828) 698-4859.

HICKORY — The Brother Francis Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of Hickory, NC, will sponsor the *Crib at Greccio*, a live re-enactment of the nativity scene founded by St. Francis of Assisi in the year 1223 in Greccio, Italy. The re-enactment will take place Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Ln. For more information, call (828) 327-7741.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Catholic Church invites all unmarried Catholics for a *Holiday Singles Get-Together*, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Fourth Street Filling Station, 871 W. 4th St., in Winston-Salem. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening before the holidays begin. Please RSVP to Donna Kronner by Dec. 6, by calling (336) 631-8892 or e-mail dkronner@wfbmc.edu.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews — Holy Redeemer Church — Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction

Asheboro — St. Joseph Church — First Fridays from end of 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m.

Asheville — Basilica of St. Lawrence — Daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Belmont Abbey — Mary, Help of Christians Church — Daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.

Boone — St. Elizabeth Church — First Fridays following the 12:15 p.m. Mass for one hour

Bryson City — St. Joseph Church — First Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.

Charlotte — St. Gabriel Church — Perpetual Adoration

Charlotte — St. Matthew Church — Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday, in chapel

Charlotte — St. Thomas Aquinas Church — Friday evenings, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Each First Friday following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday

Charlotte — St. Vincent de Paul Church — First Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass (9:30-10:30 a.m.)

Clemmons — Holy Family Church — Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays

Denver — Holy Spirit — First Fridays, 7 p.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday

Hendersonville — Immaculate Conception — First Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.

Hickory — St. Aloysius Church — First Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Huntersville — St. Mark Church — Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Kernersville — Holy Cross Church — Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.

Linville — St. Bernadette Church — Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass

Mocksville — St. Francis of Assisi Church — First Fridays at 11 a.m.; Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Mt. Airy — Holy Angels Church — Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays from 10-11 a.m.

Newton — St. Joseph Church — First Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.

Salisbury — Sacred Heart Church — Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Spruce Pine — St. Lucien Church — First Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Statesville — St. Philip Church — First Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Swannanoa — St. Margaret Mary Church — First Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.

Tryon — St. John the Baptist Church — Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; First Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Waynesville — St. John the Evangelist Church — First Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.

Gay marriage proposals destructive to society, Vatican official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Instituting forms of gay marriage does not help homosexuals and is "destructive for the family and for society," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said.

Cardinal Ratzinger said recent legislative proposals for gay marriage are part of a larger modern rupture between sexuality and fertility. They mark a radical departure from the conviction that the union between a man and a woman guarantees the future of humanity, he said.

Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, made his comments Nov. 19 in the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The interview dealt primarily with Europe, where several countries have moved toward recognizing gay marriage.

Cardinal Ratzinger said this is a trend that "separates us from all the great cultures of humanity, which have always recognized the particular significance of sexuality: that a man and a woman are created to jointly be the guarantee of the future of humanity, a guarantee that is not only physical but also moral."

The cardinal said the church should have "great respect" for homosexuals as people who "are suffering and want to find their way to live justly." But creating forms of gay marriage "does not really help these people," he said.

Gay marriage legislation has an effect that goes beyond the homosexual population, Cardinal Ratzinger said. It promotes the idea that, because they may be legal, all such unions are morally acceptable, he said.

The cardinal said gay marriage proposals were just one example of the tremendous changes challenging European culture.

Cardinal Ratzinger said that despite worrisome signs of a decline in religion in Europe he was confident that "the faith is not dead" on the continent.

"I am sure that even in the context of a multicultural society, and even with these great disputes, the Christian faith will remain an important factor, capable of furnishing moral and cultural strength to the continent," he said.

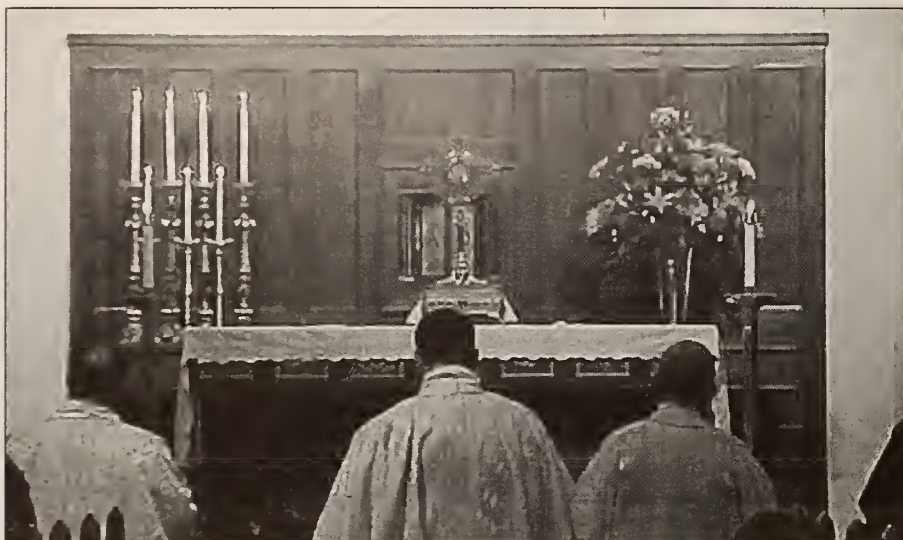
Baskets of hope



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A volunteer from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte loads laundry baskets into the car of Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle outside the diocesan Pastoral Center Nov. 22. More than 100 baskets filled with non-perishable food and grocery vouchers were donated by St. Matthew Church to clients of the Catholic Social Services and diocesan refugee offices. The church collects food each year for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Adoring Christ



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, and Deacon Patrick Vallandingham take part in the 40-hour eucharistic adoration at Sacred Heart Church. Father Arnsperger led the devotion, which began Nov. 17 and ended with a eucharistic procession led by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and other diocesan priests Nov. 19.

The devotion was in celebration of Pope John Paul II's Oct. 17 declaration of the Year of the Eucharist, which runs through Oct. 29, 2005. The pope has asked Catholics to spend time during the year in adoration before Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic adoration also was one of the initiatives suggested in "The Year of the Eucharist: Suggestions and Proposals," recently released by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments to help dioceses and parishes promote the yearlong celebration.

FOR PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE OFFERING EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, SEE PAGE 3.

Catholic Daughters gather for annual celebration

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Charlotte 1199 remembers the past and looks toward the future.

Approximately 25 members of the court celebrated Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day Oct. 17 with a Mass and luncheon.

The Mass, celebrated by Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, was to honor deceased and present members. The day's theme was "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow — Women of Faith and Vision."

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day is held the third Sunday of October. The organization, which was founded in 1903 as the Daughters of Isabella, describes itself as the oldest and largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas.

Headquartered in New York with 100,000 members in the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic and Mexico, Catholic Daughters' purpose is to help the church in its religious, charitable and educational works.

Some of Court Charlotte 1199's community projects include A Child's Place, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, Crop Walk, tutoring and work with battered women.

WANT MORE INFO?

The Catholic Daughters is open to Catholic lay and religious women 18 years of age or older. Court Charlotte 1199 meetings are held at 11 a.m. the second Saturday each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 220 E Kingston Ave., Charlotte.

PRAYING FOR LIFE

Night of prayer for life to be held in parishes around diocese

CHARLOTTE — The National Night of Prayer for Life will be held in 14 parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte Dec. 8-9.

The event is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary, silent meditation and benediction.

"On this evening, we assemble to ask God's help and forgiveness for sins against our most vulnerable brothers and sisters — the unborn," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

Parishes typically begin the service at 9 p.m. on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, and continue until 1 a.m. on Dec. 9, when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico. The "hour of unity" is midnight-1 a.m., so all parishes in the four U.S. time zones can be linked in prayer at the same time.

However, due to unique schedules and conditions, some parishes may adjust the schedule of the service.

WANT TO GO?

The National Night of Prayer for Life runs 9 p.m., Dec. 8, until 1 a.m., Dec. 9. However, times may vary for participating churches. Please call the church for the schedule.

Participating parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte area:

Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville — (828) 252-6042

Holy Spirit Church, Denver — (704) 483-6448

Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro — (336) 274-6520

Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington — (336) 248-2463

St. Barnabas Church, Arden — (828) 684-6098

St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte — (704) 364-5431

St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte — (704) 536-6520

St. Joseph Church, Asheville — (336) 629-0221

St. Joseph Church, Newton — (828) 464-9207

St. Mark Church, Huntersville — (704) 948-0231

St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa — (828) 686-8833

St. Matthew Church, Charlotte — (704) 543-7677

St. Pius X Church, Greensboro — (336) 272-4681

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte — (704) 549-1607

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FROM THE COVER

Knights celebrate 100 years in Greensboro

KNIGHTS, from page 1

state deputy.

Bishop Curlin reflected on how different things were in the country in 1904 when the council was first founded.

"We've had many advances and achievements over 100 years, yet we still have so many sorrows in this world," said Bishop Curlin. "But rather than be pessimistic, we should look at opportunities to bring Christ where Christ is needed."

"What a glorious time for the Knights of Columbus to stand out and shine as examples of what Christians should be," he said.

An international service organization founded in 1882 by Father

Michael McGivney in New Haven, Conn., the Knights of Columbus is open to all males 18 years of age or older who are faithful and practicing Catholics.

Activities of the Knights include camps and schools for underprivileged children and aid to the handicapped and orphaned, the sick and disabled. The Knights are also well known for efforts the support of strong marriages and families, vocations and the pro-life movement.

On June 7, 1903, the first Knights of Columbus council in North Carolina, 770, was formed in Charlotte. Next came Piedmont Council 939, first known as Greensboro Council, which was organized through the efforts of Benedictine Father Vincent Taylor, then-pastor of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro, and Otto Parati — both members of the Knights of Columbus.

Early in 1904, they signed up six men from Greensboro who were responsible for recruiting enough members to initiate the Greensboro council. The council was founded with 40 charter members on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, 1904.

"At a time when Catholicism was looked down upon, these men started a council, marched in parades and showed pride in their faith," said Pat Kirwan, a fourth-degree knight and past Faithful Navigator. He has been a Knight for 26 years.

"I'm proud to be a part of this," he said.

The council's name was changed to Piedmont Council 939 on Feb. 8, 1921.

"We've seen it grow over the years," said Bob Grabasky, a 16-year member serving as the Knights' state secretary. "We used to meet in a store, and now we have 470 members."

Grabasky believes the council has made a difference over the years.

"We have a lot to offer. People in the community realize there are Catholics here doing some real good," he said.

And he said serving as a knight has made a difference in his own life.

"It's made me a better husband, a better father and a better Catholic," he said.

The council has helped make life better for others, as well.

"Through Operation LAMB, we have raised a total of \$670,000 for mentally handicapped children," said Frank Tamborino, the council's grand knight and member for seven years.

According to recently released national figures, the nearly 1.7 million members of the Knights of Columbus contributed a record \$130 million to charity in 2003. The number of service hours contributed by Knights also was at an all-time high at 61 million hours in 2003.

"It's great to give something back to the church and community," said Tambino. "And it's a milestone to cel-

brate 100 years of service."

Bishop Curlin highlighted some of the council's works during his homily.

"Think of all you have done ... all the sacrifices you've made to make a difference," he said. "We thank God for what you've done to respond to those challenges."

"But we can't stay focused on the past. The challenge for us is to make this a day of rededication," he said. "What a time for the Knights to stand up and recommit themselves. We must make a new consecration."

"From now on as a Knight of Columbus, with all the challenges our world gives you, say adsum domine — I am here, Lord," said Bishop Curlin.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin speaks to the Knights of Columbus during his homily about recommitting themselves to Christ's work during his homily.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Knights of Columbus line the aisles of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro during a Mass celebrating their 100th anniversary Nov. 13.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'SpongeBob' splashes into theaters with positive message

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Everyone's favorite bright-yellow sea sponge makes a splash on the big screen in the animated underwater adventure "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie."

Based on the hugely popular TV cartoon, the wacky and whimsically appealing film uses much of the show's original voice talent and remains true to the series' light-hearted, kid-friendly tone.

OK, so it is like watching an extended episode — at times, overextended — but as its tag line proudly proclaims, the movie version is "bigger, better and more absorbent." On the second count, opinions will vary.

Unless you've been holed up in a hermit-crab shell for the past few years, you probably already know that SpongeBob is an incurably optimistic little sea sponge, who lives in a pineapple house in the backwater cove of Bikini Bottom, where he works as a fry cook at Krusty Krab's fish joint.

In the film, the porous protagonist and his dimwitted starfish pal, Patrick, must undertake a perilous quest to recover King Neptune's crown which was stolen by Plankton, a microscopic megalomaniac who uses the theft to set in motion his diabolical master plan to subjugate all of Bikini Bottom.

Along the way, SpongeBob and Patrick wiggle out of some close scrapes with deep sea monsters and a hired hit man, aided in their efforts by Neptune's kind-hearted daughter, Mindy.

Compared to the computer-generated seascapes of "Finding Nemo" and the ma-

rine metropolis of "Shark Tale," the eye-poppingly colorful, hand-drawn "SpongeBob" has a much zanier absurdist look — more nonsensical than nautical.

The movie features several catchy, plot-padding tunes. Mixed in with the animation are several live-action sequences, including a rousing opening number sung by a shipload of pirates.

Loyal fans — many of whom are adults — will go home happy, and even those not particularly fond of the spunky sponge may find themselves cracking a smile.

Parents should be aware that the film contains one scene where SpongeBob and Patrick are captured and roasted under a sunlamp, which may prove a upsetting for very young children. Also, viewers catch a glimpse of both SpongeBob's and Patrick's bare bottoms, which only the crustiest of Krusty Krabs would find offensive.

As in the TV show, the clever humor is never mean-spirited and refreshingly cynicism-free. Underneath its looney-tune silliness is a positive believe-in-yourself message that extols the virtues of childhood. In a world where kids grow up way too fast, it's nice to see a movie that actually celebrates innocence. Not a bad lesson to absorb.

In spite of a few scenes of menace and some mildly crude humor, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 5, 2004

Dec. 5, Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
- 2) Romans 15:4-9
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

ADVENT IS A TIME FOR HOPE

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Advent is a season of hope and high expectation, with expectations as high as the Isaiah reading's picture of the peaceable kingdom, shown in images of a calf and a young lion browsing together, or a cow and a bear living as neighbors. But as Psalm 72 and Isaiah's reading show, it is a season of waiting on the justice of God to come to all the nations, of the virtuous receiving their rewards and the crooked their just desserts, of God coming to the aid of the poor and afflicted.

John the Baptist puts it so angrily in the Matthew reading when he sees the unjust religious who make life difficult for others: "Who told you to flee the wrath to come?" You can just see the fire and brimstone sparking from his bearded lips.

But we all want to opt for the peaceable version of what is coming

from God in the future. We want to be presentable at the time of God's coming, to be among those comfortable with the seeming paradox of animals normally opposed being at peace; of the poor man being treated with justice.

By the time this appears, I will likely know whether I face a second procedure involving surgeons working skillfully inside my skull. My first brain surgery last November was quite successful, as witnessed by the fact that I'm writing this column. If a second angiogram reveals that surgery is necessary again, I can only hope for the grace of God to allow me to be present to my family and my friends once again, with all of my faculties.

But whatever the outcome, I can trust in the eternal vision we are presented in these readings, confident that the grace of God is adequate to overcome the inadequacies of my own lacks in obedience and love. And as one of the gentiles Paul writes of in Romans, I will be able to "glorify God because of his mercy."

Questions:

What lessons might facing your own mortality teach you about how you want to live? If you thought you might be heading to God soon, to whom would you want to show more of the love you hold in your heart?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4

Sunday (First Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; Monday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 4:2-6, Matthew 8:5-11; Tuesday (St. Andrew), Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; Wednesday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; Thursday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; Friday (St. Francis Xavier), Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; Saturday (St. John of Damascus), Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 11

Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; Monday (St. Nicholas), Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; Tuesday (St. Ambrose), Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; Wednesday (Immaculate Conception), Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; Thursday (St. Juan Diego), Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; Friday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; Saturday, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13.

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Bishops vote on marriage, unity, abuse data

BISHOPS, from page 1

or discussion, at the suggestion of Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, who heads the task force.

The report said the bishops would develop a "Reader on Catholics in Public Life" and that their doctrine and pastoral practices committees have agreed to take up the matter of church teaching on when it is proper for Catholic politicians, and all Catholics, to receive Communion.

The 456-page "U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults," approved by a 218-10 vote, was written in response to a Vatican request that bishops or bishops' conferences develop such catechisms to complement the universal "Catechism of the Catholic Church" issued in 1992 by Pope John Paul II.

The adult catechism must receive "recognitio," or confirmation, from the Holy See before it becomes official.

The marriage initiative, approved by a 195-20 vote, will begin with a survey of bishops about the issues they want addressed, followed by a symposium of theologians and social scientists, focus groups of lay people and sessions with pastoral leaders and bishops' conference committees, and lead to a pastoral letter on marriage in 2007.

"We can help to create a positive

climate that places healthy marriages at the heart of strong families, a strong nation and a strong and holy church," said Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga., chairman of the Committee on Marriage and Family Life. "This is a pastoral moment we should seize upon."

The proposal to join Christian Churches Together in the USA, which passed 151-73, marks the first time that the U.S. Catholic Church will be a partner church in such a national ecumenical body, although Catholic churches in about 70 other countries belong to national councils of churches or similar bodies.

Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, called the new organization "a forum for participation" through which Christian churches can "pray together, grow in understanding together and witness together."

The bishops also took up two proposals related to their "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The gathering of annual data from dioceses was approved by a 137-85 vote, while a related proposal allowing for fewer on-site inspections and more self-reporting in diocesan audits passed by a vote of 189-35.

The Spanish-language liturgical texts approved Nov. 17 were designed to formally incorporate important Latin American rituals into U.S. church services.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., smiles after being elected the next president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington Nov. 15. Bishop Skylstad was vice president of the conference.

These include a blessing ceremony for the "quinceanera," a popular celebration among Hispanics that takes place when a girl is 15 to mark her passage from childhood to adolescence; an infant baptismal rite; and additions to the marriage liturgy that incorporate traditions popular mostly in Mexico, Central America and Puerto Rico.

The bishops overwhelmingly approved a series of recommendations aimed at limiting the conference's projects to those mandated by the Vatican or the bishops themselves.

The conference "has taken on too many projects. We try to do too much," said Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh, chairman of the bishops' Task Force on Activities and Resources, which drafted the recommendations.

On Nov. 15, the bishops approved a \$129.4 million budget for 2005 — 1.8 percent higher than the previous year's budget — and agreed to create an ad hoc committee to aid the church in Africa, which would collect and distribute contributions for the church in Africa, using staff and resources from a handful of

offices to manage the effort.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., was elected to a three-year term as the new USCCB president, and Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago was elected vice president.

Bishop Skylstad, who served as USCCB vice president under Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., took up his new post at the close of the meeting.

In the meeting's closing press conference Nov. 17, Bishop Skylstad said the past three years have been "a tough time for bishops" because of the clergy sex abuse crisis, but he said the bishops now wished to give greater time and attention to such matters as evangelization, catechesis, the sacraments and Mass attendance.

"We need to address those issues, rather than just processing documents," he said.

Opening the meeting with the traditional president's address, Bishop Gregory called the clergy sex abuse crisis "the greatest scandal that the church in the United States perhaps has ever confronted," but he cited several "very healthy forces" that have resulted from the bishops' handling of the scandal.

Those forces include an evaluation of how the bishops' meetings themselves work, and a study of how their conference operates and how its expenses might be held down, he said.

"As I look at these three forces at work, I am drawn to conclude that the conference as we know it today is likely to be a much different conference five or 10 years from now," Bishop Gregory added.

The bishops closed the first day of their meeting with a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception marking the 25th anniversary of their pastoral letter on racism, "Brothers and Sisters to Us."

The bishops also authorized Bishop Gregory to issue a statement on their behalf calling on the United States and the international community to provide sufficient support to the African Union to stop the violence in western Sudan's Darfur region.

Contributing to this story were Jerry Filteau, Patricia Zapor and Agostino Bono.

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for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and as Legislative Coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. He currently serves on the boards of Bread for the World and the Catholic Health Association. He and his wife Linda have four children.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point volunteer at the Open Door shelter every Wednesday.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Students volunteer weekly at shelter

HIGH POINT — Every Wednesday, four middle school students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School spend their lunch period serving food, not eating it.

The students work at a neighborhood shelter's kitchen run by Open Door Ministries of High Point Inc., as part of the school's Community Outreach Program.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School was the first to create a student volunteer partnership with Open Door. Now 10 years old, the project gives students the opportunity to experience a different aspect of life. Other area schools also donate their students' manpower.

This year at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, one sixth-grader, one seventh-grader and two eighth-grade students — and a parent volunteer — don plastic gloves every week to "plate-up" as many as 100 trays of food. The trays are distributed to men, women and children — many of whom are homeless.

Students also wash and dry pots and pans, and clean tables.

"This form of outreach is one of many ways our school gives back to the community," said Principal Wanda Garrett.

"Children who develop good habits of volunteerism are the very ones who grow up and continue to serve as adults," she said. "To practice our faith in action and instill in our students the value of being good stewards of all God has given us is a lesson that can only be taught outside the classroom."

To teach the student body more about the Open Door shelter and pantry, Immaculate Heart of Mary hosted a talk by Steve Key, director of Open Door, Nov. 19. Key explained what the shelter does, for whom and why.

Key's talk kicked off a canned food drive at Immaculate Heart of Mary school and church to replenish Open Door's pantry. Students delivered the food to Open Door Nov. 23.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Retreat focuses on faith

FIRE, from page 1

Lampitt opened her Fire in the Mountains 2004 talks on "Sacred Imagination" by quoting St. Hildegard: "Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. ... Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground, and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself but because the air bore it along. Thus am I, a feather on the breath of God."

Fire in the Mountains 2004, a one-day annual retreat sponsored by the Dio-

cese of Charlotte's Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates and Office of Faith Formation, and by Harcourt Religion Publishers (which publishes only Catholic materials), was held Nov. 20.

Nearly 200 people from parishes in the Asheville, Smoky Mountain, Hickory, Gastonia and Winston-Salem vicariates attended.

Lampitt, president of Harcourt and author of "Imagination: Fuel for Catechesis," spoke to the English-language audience in the Harrell Center.

Dora Tobar, Ph.D., presented to the Spanish-speaking audience in Lambuth Inn. She is co-founder of and former professor at Instituto Lumen Gentium

in her native Colombia and now teaches summer courses at Catholic University of America.

In his opening remarks, Father James Hawker, vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte, talked of a man who swims in polluted streams to call attention to the pollution. The swimmer said that, "If someone isn't willing to put his life on the line, nothing changes."

"Every time you speak in the name of Jesus, you put your life on the line and things change, you change" Father Hawker said. "You echo the word of Jesus, and that word reverberates into the lives of people — their hearts, their minds, their souls."

Father Hawker encouraged people to not "get downhearted when you experience rejection."

Tobar spoke on "I am the Church." "To be church is to be a community person," she said.

God, she added, has been working inside her "since I was conceived in my mother. We are the result of the breath of the Holy Spirit."

Just as stem cells can be anything in people's bodies, Tobar said, people can be anything in the body of Christ.

"Our job by the Holy Spirit is to build the new body of Christ, to give the love of Christ to the whole world," she said. "We are stem cells because we can bring God-life to humanity. Each (person) is a stem cell in the body of Christ for humanity."

People recognize their places in the body of Christ, Tobar explained, by looking at individual abilities and by looking at "what kind of pain in the world touches you much. God is always talking to you through the suffering of his people."

"What (Tobar) has been talking about touches all the ministries in the vicariate: youth groups, community, catechists," said Antonio Garcia, Asheville Vicariate Hispanic ministry coordinator. "The message is clear about where God is calling you."

Lampitt sees imagination as crucial to faith growth.

Indeed, the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states: "Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ" (2708).

Meditating on stories from one's life or from books can help people gain fresh insights, said Lampitt.

"Stories shock us into a new awareness," she said. "Sometimes stories are so familiar that we don't see them anymore. This can be true of Scripture. So we need to find new eyes to see with."

To meditate on a story, Lampitt advises rereading a story, then asking: "How does the story speak to you? How is God's revelation communicated through this story? In what ways does this story touch your heart and motivate you to change? What Scripture passages come to mind in relationship to this story?"

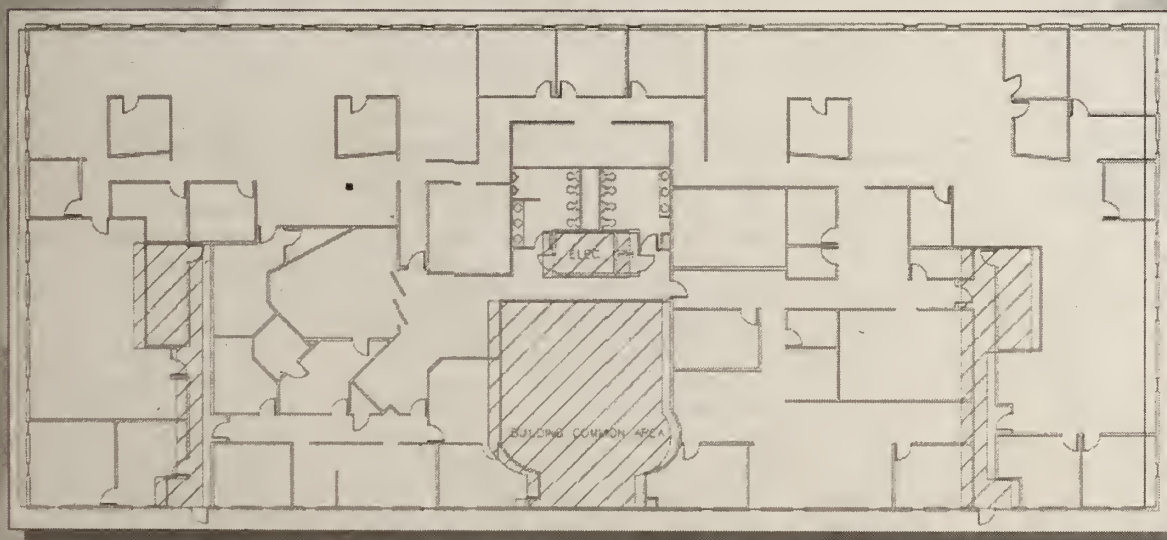
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Thanksgiving gets a thumbs-up from me

So this Thanksgiving found me sitting by the fireplace, warming my bones with the help of a Cuban cigar and a glass of fine Australian brandy, contemplating the many things for which I have to be thankful.

I realized I have quite the list of things to treasure — my annual big game safari in Africa, my lucrative foot modeling career, my stint as a women's beach volleyball coach. Oh, and my family.

But noticing the scar on my right thumb, I realized that perhaps most precious to me is one particular thumb-shaped award that adorns the far corner of my upstairs trophy room. I acquired it long ago, during a period of my life when I was embroiled in a shadowy world unknown to most.

That's right, you guessed it — I was a reigning champion in the infamous, much-rumored but largely secretive New York underground thumb-wrestling circuit. Or, as we in the know call it: Thumb Wars.

Many folks have experienced the joys of victory and the oft-painful agonies of defeat in amateur thumb wrestling — two players hook the four fingers of their right hands together so both of their right thumbs are sticking straight up. The object is to pin down for three seconds your opponent's right thumb using your right thumb.

This is often played in situations where larger or more complicated games might be inappropriate: in the car, a restaurant or when attempting to annoy one's parents. It's usually good clean fun and not to be taken seriously, even by those with a tendency to talk about silly things with a straight face.

But Thumb Wars is quite real, and unlike the glorified sport of professional Rock, Paper, Scissors tournaments, it is something most decent people can't imagine.

I was first lured into this dark world as a young man in New York. I was playfully thumb wrestling with a girl at a bar one night and, when she went to the ladies room, I was approached by a surly-looking man.

"You're good, kid, but you can be better," he said gruffly. "And you'll never know until you're pushed to the limit. Want to find out how far that is?"

He slipped me a piece of paper with directions and a password on it. Being young and naive, I soon found myself outside an abandoned warehouse down by the harbor. I knocked, gave the password to the bouncer and was led to a smoke-filled room. Two men were seated at a table under a bright light; dozens of others were around them, shouting and exchanging bets and money.

The rules were simple: Two men enter the circle. Two men leave, of course, but often one with a bruised thumb.

The wrestlers finished their match, and one was removed on a stretcher while nursing a sprained thumb. Onlookers cheered and jeered. The referee called for a challenger. The surly man appeared and pushed me into the circle.

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR



The crowd went wild.

I was up against Tony "Green Thumb" Famiglietti, a retired gardener and current champ. I sat across from him, and we locked fingers. His digits were gigantic and I feared the worst. But a bell rang suddenly and all bedlam broke loose.

He almost pinned my thumb twice, but I had youth and speed on my side. Suddenly, I was in a tight spot.

"He's trying to 'slide' you, kid," said the surly man. "Watch out!"

A slide is when your opponent tries to slip his thumb up behind yours and pin you. I panicked and swirled my thumb out of the way; somehow, I slipped it around and pinned his. The sound of my thumb hitting his made a distinct "thwack" sound. I had won.

The crowd roared. The surly man grinned at me. "You done good, kid. You done real good."

That should have been it, but I was hooked. It was in my blood. I found myself in that circle weekend after weekend, wrestling all sorts of assorted foes, with Surly Man as my manager. The "Thwack Attack Kid," they called me. And I was unbeatable.

With my success came fame, money and women. By day I was an average college student; by night, I was a champion. I thumb wrestled in the backrooms of bars, liquor stores and police stations all over New York and New Jersey. I even participated in tag team events, known as "Massive Multiplayer Thumb Wrestling."

While the notoriety was great, I realize now how it changed me. Like many underground thumb wrestlers, I lost sight of what really matters in this world. I wasted my prayers on winning matches. I danced in the darkness, shunning the light.

Thankfully, my "glory days" eventually came to an end. I suffered that most common of accidents — someone dropped a marching band tonal bass drum on my hand and injured my thumb — and my underground career as a champion "thumb warrior" was finished.

It wasn't easy to accept at first, but alas, it was for the best. Leaving that world behind only made me appreciate how important my faith is to me, and how good it felt to be out of the darkness. If anything, that's why I treasure that silly-looking thumb-shaped trophy.

Nowadays, I enjoy simpler pleasures and it doesn't take much to make me grateful — just a stout Cuban cigar and some stiff Australian brandy.

Oh, and my family.

Pope says every Catholic has duty to evangelize in contemporary world

Editor's note: Due to an early publishing schedule, we are unable to print the story from the pope's weekly general audience.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's pronouncement on the nature and role of the church, Pope John Paul II said every Catholic has a duty to evangelize the contemporary world.

The recently published "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" offers a useful tool to lay men and women who want to implement Vatican II's teachings in modern society, he said.

The pope made the remarks at a noon blessing Nov. 21 from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

The pope said Vatican II had wanted to emphasize Christ as "the light of peoples," or "Lumen Gentium," the title given to the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, which was issued Nov. 21, 1964. It presented the church as a mystery, as a communion of baptized believers, as the people of God, and as a pilgrim moving toward fulfillment in heaven but marked on earth with a real, though imperfect, sanctity.

"Lumen Gentium" marked a milestone

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II



in the church's progress along the road of contemporary society," the pope said.

"It stimulated the people of God to assume with greater decisiveness their responsibilities in the building up of that kingdom of God that will have its fulfillment only beyond history," he said.

"Evangelical animation of the temporal order is, in fact, a duty of every baptized person, in particular of the lay faithful," he said.

The pope said the church's efforts in the world need the support of prayer. In that regard, religious orders deserve the spiritual and material assistance of the whole church, he said.

In the United States, USCCB Publishing plans to have the social compendium available in mid- to late January.

Scorn is hard to take

As a night owl, I developed the habit of watching "The Tonight Show" monologue before I went to bed. It was nice to go to bed with a laugh.

For a long time Johnny Carson was an electronic friend. After he retired, I soon began to enjoy Jay Leno. He was not as gentle as Carson, but he could be very funny.

But I watch him no more. A few weeks ago he started on a series of jokes about priests and child abuse.

Leno is free to tell whatever jokes he wants. I also realize that we priests have nobody but ourselves to blame for the fact that we have become the butt of jokes. Comedians, after all, make a living pointing out life's ironies. After the scandal of the last few years, we are an easy target.

However, I don't have to listen. I am free to turn it off. From now on I will.

I don't want to watch or listen when the vocation to which I have dedicated my life is made an object of scorn. It is just too painful. There is a meanness to these jokes.

In one joke about childhood obesity statistics, Leno said the real danger of child obesity was that the altar boys were now too fat to run away from the priests. In another joke about the presidential election he said: "Never mind the separation of church and state, what about separating the church from our kids. That's what we ought to be worried about."

Whew! Scorn is hard to take.

The priesthood is in trouble when people are laughing at it. Anger, even hatred, is easier to take than scorn. We have a lot of repair work to do.

Like a lot of comedians, Leno is a fallen-away Catholic. There are many others including George Carlin and Bill Maher. Their jokes are angry. Their anger tells me

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



something: In some way, the priesthood and the church are still important to them. That's why they are so angry about it.

Cynics often are disappointed romantics. But both cynicism and romanticism are immature.

Mature people eventually come to realize the truth of what the church has always taught about the human condition — that original sin affects everyone. We all have feet of clay. All are sinners.

It is not entirely their fault if they are cynics about the priesthood and the church. Priests tended to "widen their phylacteries," as Jesus said. That is, we tended to project the image of perfect virtue. We did not admit our mistakes easily or our sinfulness publicly. After the last few years it is painfully obvious.

But there is one thing about those who left the church in anger. The porch light is on for them. At the end of life, even folks like these bitter comedians will want comfort and consolation.

Despite their scorn, a priest will be there for them. We bring words of encouragement and forgiveness if they want it. That is what we do. We serve him who offered himself up for those who jeered and mocked him.

Meanwhile, I will be turning the television off a little earlier. I will get more sleep, but I will miss the laughs.

Statistics and complications that were someone's daughter

PROVIDING NAMES PUTS
FACES TO TRAGEDY

This time, the I-told-you-so catches in the throat.

The death of a young person produces a terrible void. Who can be indifferent to the loss of a unique human being and her capacity to love, create and do good? Who could be insensitive to the raw grief of family members and count the death as nothing more than a statistical blip?

Apparently the folks at Danco Laboratories can.

Danco, the U.S. distributor of RU-486 (Mifeprex), seems quite willing to overlook another death so long as it can keep selling the "magic pill" to make pregnancy disappear. And if the pregnant mothers disappear too, well that's just "a rare complication."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is acting no better. On Nov. 15, the FDA decided not to suspend distribution of RU-486 even after the seventh reported death in recent years associated with an RU-486 abortion, after 676 "adverse event" reports including 17 ectopic pregnancies, 72 cases where blood transfusions were needed and 7 serious infections. Instead, it's content to beef up the warning labels and belatedly include emergency room directors in their mass mailing because — go figure — lots of

Life Issues Forum

SUSAN E.
WILLS
GUEST COLUMNIST

teens and young women who take RU-486 end up in emergency rooms.

Responsible medical associations and the pro-life community have warned the FDA for nearly a decade about the dangers inherent in the RU-486/misoprostol combination. Citizens petitions were filed with the FDA both during and after its dubious fast-tracked approval in the waning months of the Bill Clinton presidency.

There are three main ways that RU-486 is potentially lethal to women: bleeding to death, infection and ruptured ectopic pregnancy. Why? Because the pills always cause bleeding and pain which can mask potentially fatal problems.

We can now put names to these risks.

In June 2003, Rebecca Tell Berg, a Swedish teen, bled to death. She didn't go to the hospital because she was told to expect to bleed for two weeks. Dr. Mark Louviere narrowly saved the life of a woman from Waterloo, Iowa who'd lost

one-half to two-thirds of her blood volume after an RU-486 abortion.

Eighteen-year-old Holly Patterson of Livermore, Calif., died in September 2003 from an infection following an RU-486 abortion. A Canadian woman died in September 2001 from infection, her death suspending the Canadian RU-486 drug trials. The most recent U.S. victim also died from an RU-486-related infection.

Brenda Vise of Hamilton County, Tenn., died in September 2001 from a ruptured ectopic pregnancy after undergoing an RU-486 abortion. Because RU-486 is ineffective in ending such pregnancies, they are supposed to be ruled out in advance.

Dana Powell of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, was luckier: after taking RU-486 in October 2002, a ruptured ectopic pregnancy destroyed one fallopian tube, but she survived.

There are many such stories among the 676 adverse event reports filed with the FDA. In November 2003, Congressmen Jim DeMint and Roscoe Bartlett and Senator Rick Santorum introduced bills ("Holly's Law") to suspend FDA approval of RU-486 pending review of its safety. If the FDA cannot be relied upon to protect young women from this dangerous and unnecessary drug, Congress should step in and do so.

Susan Wills is associate director for education with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

That famous half a grilled cheese sandwich

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



By the time you read this, chances are that both you and I will have missed out not only on a chance to have purchased on eBay half a grilled cheese sandwich with a purported image of the Virgin Mary on it, but also a Pop Tart with an image of the Virgin Mary.

As I write this, the bidding for the grilled cheese sandwich is hovering somewhere between \$22,000 and eBay's maximum bid of \$99.9 million. EBay was quite forthright in admitting that some of the \$99.9 million bids might not have been serious.

The price on the Pop Tart had reached \$4.25 — but there were still two days and four hours left for bidding, so heaven knows how high it might have climbed.

Unfortunately for the Pop Tart seller, the grilled cheese item made international news and, thus, was dominating the auction.

Still, the Pop Tart person did not seem discouraged at all. As a matter of fact, he or she made the important point that the Pop Tart had not even been toasted yet, and "unlike 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwiches, this Pop Tart comes without a bite taken from it."

"Maybe you want to add to your collection of food that resembles biblical characters, or maybe you're just looking for a good bite to eat. Either way, this Pop Tart is a must have," the seller said on the eBay listing. (This is all true.)

Diana Duyser, who owns the famous half a grilled cheese sandwich, said the personal relic has been perched on her bedroom nightstand for about a decade, surrounded by cotton balls inside a clear-plastic box.

No news reports I saw indicated whether or not she had submitted the sandwich to church authorities for any type of authentication — or to any health officials for comments.

For the record, I saw a picture of the Pop Tart on eBay. It very much resembles a wood-burning project I did in the third grade, only it features a bad rendition of the Virgin Mary rather than a horse with a huge head.

Yes, I know what you parish stewardship committee people are thinking. EBay auctioning of images of church heroes and heroines on food items might have great potential for fund raising.

That might be more than a half-baked idea.

Comments are welcome. E-mail Uncle Dan at cnsuncle01@yahoo.com.

A divided people Americans must search for full truth

Who would have thought that millions of Americans would split so evenly in our elections? How do we interpret this division?

By nature, we members of the human family live on assurances, beliefs and certitudes. But truths, beliefs and traditions have been shaken in our culture. I wonder if stronger stances are being taken today both by those who want to maintain traditions and by those who want to redefine them.

What are some cultural issues that now divide people?

Most Americans were in favor of hunting down the 9-11 terrorists. But when the Iraq war was added to the hunt, they split on its justification. Is our nation fighting terrorism or are we enkindling it?

Some Americans feel that being American means allowing important traditions to be redefined. Hence, citizens in more and more states are being asked to vote on the issue of same-sex marriage. Do we redefine marriage and justify this as upholding fundamental rights or do we maintain its present definition as unchangeable?

Although big business always

has experienced its share of corruption, being a CEO was considered an honorable position. Recent scandals have dramatically changed this perception. Should we act urgently to create laws designed to prevent corruption in business or should we act cautiously, not wanting to make life more complicated than it is?

The news media over the years generally were considered anchors of truth. Unfortunately, errors in reporting now have spread a cloud of skepticism over the media. Do we call for government action in this area or do we leave the media to reform itself?

No doubt both the right and left in America argue they represent the truth. Those on the right might say that fundamental truths, beliefs and traditions must remain. The certitude they provide is necessary for our lives.

Those on the left might say that truths, beliefs and traditions always are being adapted to new realities. For a nation to respond to the needs of its people, it must be willing to adapt in major ways.

The fight over who has truth on their side is as old as history. How

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



many people on both sides of a war have died believing that they were dying for the truth? What is disconcerting about the present split in America is that an understanding of truth is being lost.

It is not that we don't know truth when we see it. Rather, we aren't taking time, reflection and prayer to sort through the complexities of our times in order to uncover the full truth.

Living at a time of great uncertainty may have the effect of stampeding Americans, leading them to bypass the difficult task of finding the full truth.

When I was young, I was often in a state of confusion and uncertainty. My mother, sensing this, urged me to ask God to help me slow down. It is a prayer that all Americans need to make their own.

We have to take time to learn the truth. Once found, it has the power to dispel confusion and unite us.

IN THE NEWS

ANGELIC CARVINGS

Sculptor carves three angels out of dying trees at Kansas cemetery

BY SUSAN McSPADDEN AND JOE BOLLIG

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BASEHOR, Kan. — Usually when a tree dies, no matter how venerable, it becomes wood chips or is used for a bonfire.

But three dying Norway pines more than a century old at Holy Angels Cemetery in Basehor were saved from that fate.

"They were the oldest and prettiest trees in the cemetery, and we wanted to hold onto them somehow," said Joyce Bolan, secretary at Holy Angels Church, which includes the cemetery.

For a solution, the parish sought angelic intervention — and they got it.

Russell Ehart, a native of Springdale and sometime resident of Kansas and New York, was commissioned to carve the 10-foot trunks that remained of the trees into angel sculptures.

"I used to tell people, 'I'll carve anything you want,' until I got some strange requests," the sculptor said. "Now it's: 'I'll carve anything reasonable.'"

Angels are certainly in the "reasonable" category. Ehart has carved all sorts of things, from the Jayhawk mascot of the University of Kansas to St. Francis of Assisi. He doesn't do abstract art.

"I at least attempt to make (sculptures) look realistic," said Ehart, whose wife is also a woodcarver.

He used to work in construction, roughing in houses, but a back injury ended that and he turned to carving. He started with hand-carving in 1995, and then began carving with a chain saw five years later.

His first chain-saw piece was of "Chief Tonganoxie," in the Kansas town that bears the chief's name and where Ehart went to school.

Today, Ehart's work can be found

across the United States and as far away as South America and Germany. His most unusual piece is one of his rare relief sculptures called "Ezekiel's Vision," done on the side of a tree trunk at a Topeka residence. Ezekiel is at the center with his arms draped around two cherubs.

The piece Ehart spent the most time working on was a bust of civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He put about 500 hours into hand-carving the sculpture, including one stretch of working 23 hours straight. After that particularly grueling session, he said he asked his wife how it looked.

"About the same, except it's three hat sizes smaller now," she said.

Ehart's King bust won best of show at an exhibition in Utica, N.Y., in 2003.

Although he won't spend nearly that amount of time on Basehor's three angel sculptures, he is sure the results will still be impressive. When they are completed, one sculpture will depict an angel holding a lantern; the second, an angel praying; and the third, a cherub.

The cherub will be dedicated as a monument to unborn victims of abortion.

Ehart has already started carving the angels, using small chain saws that weigh about 14 pounds when full of fuel. The saws are equipped with a special blade called a "carving bar," which will be used for the main work. He also files the blades for more control.

As he completes each sculpture, Ehart will use a polyurethane sealer on the wood for protection, so that the angels can guard the cemetery for years to come.

NOTICE TO READERS

The Parish Profile will return.



CNS PHOTO BY SUSAN McSPADDEN, THE LEAVEN

Russell Ehart, a native of Springdale, Kan., was commissioned to carve three 10-foot tree trunks into angels at Holy Angels Cemetery in Basehor, Kan. Well-known in his field, Ehart's work can be found across the United States and as far away as South America and Germany.

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—Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte

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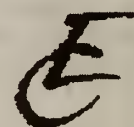
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In her footsteps
Mother Teresa's successor
visits Diocese of Charlotte

| PAGE 5

VOLUME 14 Nº 10

'VIVA LA VIRGEN' Hispanics welcome torch from Mexico City

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Crying out "Viva la Virgen!" and "Viva la Mexico!" a few hundred Hispanics, mostly Mexican, welcomed the Torch of Guadalupe to Charlotte Nov. 29.

The international torch run, an annual event since 2001, began at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City Oct. 10 and will

See TORCH, page 5

U.N. efforts to ban cloning end with no resolution on issue

*Nations differ on uses
of therapeutic cloning*

BY TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

UNITED NATIONS — Efforts to move the United Nations toward developing an international convention against human cloning were abandoned because of irreconcilable differences among member nations over how far the ban should go.

Instead, the legal commit-

See CLONING, page 13



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Hispanic Catholics carry the flag of Mexico and a reproduction of the Our Lady of Guadalupe image into St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Nov. 29.

A FEAST OF FIRSTS

Refugees gather, share first Thanksgiving

ESL students grateful for freedom, opportunities

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS
& HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Twenty-three adults and children gathered in a small apartment in Charlotte two days before Thanksgiving.

They were Montagnards from the highlands of Vietnam and Bantu tribal people from Somalia in eastern Africa. What they held in common was a past fraught with perse-

See FEAST, page 6



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Asinina Mayinguwa, 4, of Somalia eyes the food at her first Thanksgiving dinner since arriving in the United States in July. Her family is being helped by the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office.

See DEACONS, page 12

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*Basilica parishioner reflects
on 100 years*

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*Catholics find thriving parish at
St. Mary Church in Shelby*

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

DEFENDING THE FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID V. KAMBA, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Father John Barkemeyer, pastor of St. Cajetan Church in Chicago, hugs his mother, Germaine, as she and his father, Henry, bring up the offertory gifts during the priest's farewell Mass Nov. 7. Father Barkemeyer had to report for duty as an Army chaplain in Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 13.

Chicago parish offers prayers as pastor reports for duty in Iraq

CHICAGO (CNS) — Two months after completing his Army chaplaincy training, Father John H. Barkemeyer headed to Baghdad, Iraq.

Father Barkemeyer, pastor of Chicago's St. Cajetan Church, said his rapid deployment demonstrated the urgent need for Catholic priests to serve men and women in the U.S. military.

"They say they need at least 300 Catholic priests, and they've got about 100," he said.

The 40-year-old priest received his orders Nov. 3 to report for duty 10 days later. A farewell Mass for him was celebrated at his church Nov. 7.

"When I was in training, I was impressed with the commitment the Army showed to meeting the religious needs of the soldiers," he said before he was deployed. "They do the best they can with the resources they have."

Father Barkemeyer spent his last few days in the parish making sure the staff and associate pastor were ready to carry on in his absence, and taking care of personal details, such as getting a dental X-ray just in case he is killed in action and it is needed to identify his remains.

The Chicago pastor had been part of

the 863rd Engineering Unit, an Army Reserve unit out of Darien, Ill. But the need for Catholic chaplains was so great that he was sent to Iraq as an "individual replacement." His orders were to report to a headquarters unit in Baghdad.

But he did not really know what awaited him. Before leaving, he said he was most nervous about adapting to military life.

"I want to meet the needs of the soldiers as effectively as I can," he said. "I'm very confident in my ability to minister and to connect with the soldiers — I've been ordained 14 years. But I've got to learn the Army way of doing things."

Father Barkemeyer first approached Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George about becoming a military chaplain last spring, as the initial invasion of Iraq began to transform into an occupation facing hostile insurgents. A priest cannot serve in the military without his bishop's permission.

"I looked at the sacrifice we were asking our young people to make," he said. "A lot of our kids from St. Cajetan were in the Army or the Marines, and a lot of them were in Iraq. They have a right to the sacraments."

Less aid, economic woes said to hamper poor nations' development

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, said Nov. 23 that some countries were making encouraging progress toward development goals set by the Millennium Summit but the poorest were not.

"Scarce economic aid and international economic conditions have not allowed the poorest countries to achieve the most important targets in education, health and access to water and sanitation," he said.

At the 2000 summit at the United Nations, world leaders declared that they would seek to reduce the number of people living in poverty by half, provide universal education, promote gender equality and achieve other "millennium development goals" by the year 2015.

Archbishop Migliore, speaking to a session of the U.N. General Assembly that was reviewing the progress, said the amount of development aid provided by

donor countries fell far below the 0.7 percent of national income that had been widely accepted as a reasonable guideline.

Much of the aid that donor countries do give is "not targeted at the fundamental needs of the poorest countries," he added.

Noting that the poorest countries were mostly found in Africa, the nuncio said the ability of those countries to earn money by exporting goods was diminished by the policies of wealthier countries that subsidize their own exports and impose tariffs on those of Africa.

Archbishop Migliore called on the United Nations to help overcome such problems by urging the wealthy countries "to implement better the commitments they have made in international forums."

He suggested the world body itself needs to make changes to act effectively.

"Enlightened leadership" from the United Nations will involve "playing down unproductive rivalries and competitions between agencies," he said.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Just Second Fridays*, will take place Dec. 10, 1-2 p.m., in the lower level of the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. John Carr, director of the Social Development and World Peace Office for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will speak on "Moving from Faith to Action: The Social Mission of the Church." Parking is available in the underground garage next to St. Peter Church. Bring your lunch, cold drinks are provided. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Call (704) 370-3225 or visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for further information.

CHARLOTTE — Sign-language interpretation of the Liturgy of Word is offered at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road each Sunday. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 536-6520.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group*

meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0466.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Walt (704) 535-7723.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A chartered bus will leave from Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., in Belmont Jan. 15 at 7 a.m. and at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., in

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FROM THE VATICAN

Advent good time to rediscover importance of Sunday Mass, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged Catholics to rediscover the importance of Sunday Mass during the Advent season.

The period before Christmas is a perfect time to reflect on "the meaning of Sunday, its 'mystery,' the value of its celebration, and its significance for Christian and human existence," the pope said during a noontime talk from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square Nov. 28, the first Sunday of Advent.

The pope said a rekindling of interest in Sunday Mass was essential for the church, especially during the current year dedicated to the Eucharist.

In the Mass, he said, the church recognizes Christ as "the center of history" and finds in his loving sacrifice the ultimate meaning of the mystery of the faith.

The papal remarks were occasioned

by the start of preparations for an Italian eucharistic congress in 2005; its theme will be the importance of Sunday Mass.

Pope asks religious to continue serving poor in face of injustice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked members of religious orders to continue to serve the world's poorest and neediest in the face of "unheard-of" forms of injustice and exploitation.

He made the remarks to more than 800 participants of the first International Congress on Consecrated Life in Rome Nov. 22-28.

"Throughout the centuries, love for others, especially the most defenseless, the young and children, and those who have lost the sense of life and feel rejected

by everyone, has inspired consecrated men and women to give of themselves without reserve," the pope said.

"Continue to offer yourselves for the world, always aware that the only measure of love is to love without measure," he said.

The pope said the modern world needs religious men and women more than ever. Members of religious orders need to show contemporary society that the sacrifice of one's own goals and projects in the service of the Gospel is a source of real happiness, he said.

They also need to offer the credible witness of Christian values to a society that often seems disoriented, he said.

The pope said contemporary society often does not leave space for unselfish expressions of love. That increases the responsibility of religious to serve those in need, to "bind every wound" and to respond to spiritual needs wherever they present themselves, he said.

Undermining family causes 'deep wound' to society, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who undermine the fundamental role of the family cause "a deep wound to society" that is often impossible to repair, Pope John Paul II said.

In an apparent reference to laws being passed in many Western countries that expand the definitions of family, the pope said the protection and promotion of traditional marriage and families by the church is a matter of "exceptional urgency."

The pope gave his warning in a Nov. 20 audience with the Pontifical Council for the Family at the conclusion of its three-day plenary assembly at the Vatican.

The pope and other church leaders repeatedly have been calling attention to what they see as the cultural and legal erosion of the established concept of marriage between a man and a woman under way in many developed countries.

"The family based on marriage is a natural and irreplaceable institution and is the fundamental element of the common good of every society," Pope John Paul said.

"Those who destroy this fundamental fabric of human society, not respecting its identity and distorting its role, cause a deep wound to society which often provokes irreparable damage," he said.

The council, he said, must address changes to the status of the family at the national and international levels.

The church opposes legislation that permits same-sex marriage or gives legal status to cohabiting couples.

The pope gave a special nod to young couples, urging the members of the council to "renew your efforts to foster young families."

Young couples, likewise, should "cordially accept and intelligently value the discreet, delicate and generous help of other couples," he said.

The theme of the plenary session was "The Mission of Mature and Experienced Couples Toward Betrothed and Young Couples." Council members are clergy, Vatican officials and lay Catholics, including several married couples from around the world.

Charlotte, at 7:30 a.m. to go to the *Rally and March for Life* in Raleigh. For more information, contact Jan Rogers (704) 825-9600.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — A *Christmas Musical* sponsored by Immaculate Heart of Mary School will be held Dec. 14. The show is free of charge to area senior citizens. The performance begins at 10 a.m. in the school gym at 605 Barbee Ave. Refreshments will be served following the show. This year IHM kindergarten through fifth grade will present "Noelle the First," and middle school students will stage a modern version of "A Christmas Carol." The show is part of the school's community outreach program. For more information, call IHM at (336) 884-5212.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley

School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Catholic Church invites all unmarried Catholics for a *Holiday Singles Get-Together*, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Fourth Street Filling Station, 871 W. 4th St., in Winston-Salem. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening before the holidays begin. Please RSVP to Donna Kronner by Dec. 6, by calling (336) 631-8892 or e-mail dkronner@wfubmc.edu.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 5 — 12:30 p.m. Mass
Dedication of new church
St. James the Greater Church, Concord

Dec. 7 — 7:30 p.m. Mass
Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 8 — 9 a.m. Mass
Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte

Dec. 9
Ordination of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Harrisburg
Harrisburg, Penn.

Dec. 12 — 1 p.m. Mass
Third Sunday of Advent
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

After Arafat



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Voter registration worker Issa Elias (center) helps Palestinians find their names on a list of registered voters posted at the Beit Sahour Voter Registration Center at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Beit Sahour, West Bank, Nov. 28. Palestinians will vote Jan. 9 to replace longtime Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who died Nov. 11 in France.

CORRECTION - FROM NOV. 19 ISSUE

Sister of St. Joseph Joan Pearson's graduation date is 1970.

Maronite Catholics asked to register with census

Data will help Maronite eparchies with outreach, communication

NEW YORK — The Maronite Catholic bishops of the United States have initiated a Maronite census and they are asking all Maronites to register.

"The Maronite Synod of Bishops has called us to take up a census for our Maronite people here in the United States," said a Nov. 8 letter issued by Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of St. Maron of Brooklyn Eparchy and Bishop Robert J. Shaheen of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles Eparchy.

The request stems from years of war in Lebanon and the fleeing of Christians to other countries in search of better lives, said the bishops.

"Many of them have become active and productive members in the Latin Church; others live near a Maronite church and are registered there; and still others are in need of connecting with their Catholic heritage," said the bishops.

The census will not only make the Maronite bishops aware of Maronite Catholics, but also help the local Maronite parishes with better outreach and communication within their areas.

"We hope to be able to reach out to Maronite Catholics wherever they are in the United States and to assist them to be better Catholics and Maronites," said the bishops.

The Catholic Church is comprised of 22 autonomous churches, with the familiar Latin or Roman rite as the "western" church; the remaining churches are "Oriental" or eastern in origin. All the churches use language and prayers that are unique to their history and culture, but all churches observe the same sacraments.

Although some Catholics in the Middle East are members of the Latin rite, most are members of the Catholic eastern churches.

WANT TO REGISTER?

To register with the Maronite census online, go to www.maronitecensus.net; or call (718) 237-9913 or (314) 231-1021 to receive a census form by mail. For more information, e-mail the census office at usa@maronitecensus.net.

St. Ann parishioner profiled in 'Who's Who'

CHARLOTTE — Macedonio Ruiz, a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, is profiled in the 2004 editions of "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in Science and Engineering."

Ruiz, a native of Tamazula Jalisco, Mexico, graduated from the University of Guadalajara. He is a board certified entomologist from the Entomological Society of America, a former agricultural pest control advisor in California and a licensed pest management professional in North Carolina.

Ruiz has been a parishioner of St. Ann Church for 11 years and serves as a children's catechist. He appears in the October 2004 edition of "Who's Who in America" and the December

2004 edition of "Who's Who in Science and Engineering."

"Who's Who in America" has provided concise biographies of notable Americans for more than 100 years. Founder Albert Nelson Marquis selected 8,602 distinguished people for the first edition in 1899; since then, the Marquis Who's Who directories have grown to include biographies of millions of leaders and achievers from around the world in every significant field of endeavor.

Crafted with care



COURTESY PHOTO

The Ladies Guild of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City held their annual craft fair Nov. 16, which featured a variety of Christmas items handcrafted by guild members. Pictured are, (from left) Sara Suey, Bobbi Brides, Ruth Ann Connelly, JoAnn Cilone, Elaine Harding, Sue St. Pierre and Kay Frida.

Boy Scouts earn Eagle ranks

WINSTON-SALEM — Tyler Hollett and Chance Tara of Boy Scout Troop 958 received their Eagle Scout ranks Oct. 16.

To be eligible for the Eagle rank, Scouts must earn 21 merit badges, perform service projects of significant value to their communities and complete other requirements listed in the Scout Handbook before turning 18 years of age.

Tyler's project involved building a nature trail for the Children's Home of

Winston-Salem. Chance completed a nature sanctuary and trail for Bolton Elementary School in Winston-Salem.

Both Tyler and Chance are honor students at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, parishioners of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem and members of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society.

Tyler has also received the Boy Scout Ad Altare Dei Award (the Catholic God and Country award).

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Torch arrives in diocese

TORCH, from page 1

end St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Dec. 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Included among more than 60 stops along the torch's 3,813-mile journey were St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, Divine Redeemer Church in Boonville and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

By the trip's end, more than 27,000 people will have carried the torch along with a reproduction of the Guadalupe image and a portrait of St. Juan Diego.

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, and Father John F. Starczewski, parochial vicar, celebrated Mass following the arrival of the torch and its contingent. A fiesta was held following Mass.

The Mass highlighted the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the most revered saints in Latin America and the patron saint of the Americas, including Mexico.

St. Juan Diego, the 16th-century Indian in Mexico who saw the visions of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac hill in 1531, was canonized July 31, 2002.

The torch run began in 2001 as a way to unite people separated by the border between the United States and Mexico and to promote friendship among communities in both countries. The event is sponsored by the Tepeyac Association of New York, a nonprofit agency uniting the efforts of 40 community organizations serving immigrants from Mexico.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Mother Teresa's successor makes brief stop in Charlotte

Sister Nirmala visits convent, talks with clergy

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Following in the footsteps of her predecessor, Blessed Mother Teresa, Sister Nirmala Joshi came to Charlotte Nov. 5.

The superior general of the Missionaries of Charity was in the diocese for a brief visit to the sisters of her order who reside in Charlotte's Cherry neighborhood.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, who founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, visited Charlotte in June 1995, establishing the order's first North Carolina convent. The visit fulfilled a promise to her friend of 25 years, then-Bishop William G. Curlin, who blessed the convent during Mother Teresa's stay.

Four Missionaries of Charity sisters, along with their mother general, remained in Charlotte.

A Hindu convert to Catholicism, Sister Nirmala was born in 1934 in India's eastern Bihar state to a family of the priestly Brahmin caste. She joined the Missionaries of Charity at age 24. She was elected superior of the order in March 1997, six months before Mother Teresa died.

Sister Nirmala first arrived in the United States after attending the 48th International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, in October. In addition to her Charlotte stop, she visited members of her order ministering in the Chicago, Detroit, New Mexico, Denver and San Francisco areas.

Dressed in her order's distinctive white sari trimmed with blue stripes and wearing thin rubber flip-flop sandals, Sister Nirmala's 90-minute visit to the



COURTESY PHOTO

Paula Knish, a registered nurse with Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, speaks with Sister Nirmala Joshi, superior of the Missionaries of Charity, at the order's convent in Charlotte Nov. 5. Sister Romero, the convent's superior, stands in the background.

convent brought together members of her order from Kentucky and Georgia, as well as priests of the Diocese of Charlotte, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Bishop Emeritus Curlin; Vincentian Father Joseph Elzi, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Charlotte; and Father Peter Tan Van Le, pastor of St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Charlotte; and laity of the diocese.

Missionaries of Charity sisters minister at both churches:

"I was delighted to welcome her to our diocese," said Bishop Jugis, "and assure her of our complete happiness with the work of the Missionaries of Charity in our city."

"I was pleased that Bishop Curlin, who first invited the Missionaries of Charity to open a house in Charlotte, was also present to be a part of the

welcoming festivities," he said.

Visiting the Archdiocese of Denver Nov. 8, Sister Nirmala echoed her predecessor's constant refrain about the "poorest of the poor."

"He comes to us in the poorest of poor as the hungry one, the thirsty one, the homeless one, the lonely one, the unloved and unwanted one, the sick and the dying one," Sister Nirmala said, "to give us the opportunity to satiate his hunger and thirst for our love."

After a Mass, attendees asked Sister Nirmala what message she most wanted people to take home.

"Love one another," she said. "Remember, God loves us tenderly and wants us to do the same."

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

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A first Thanksgiving

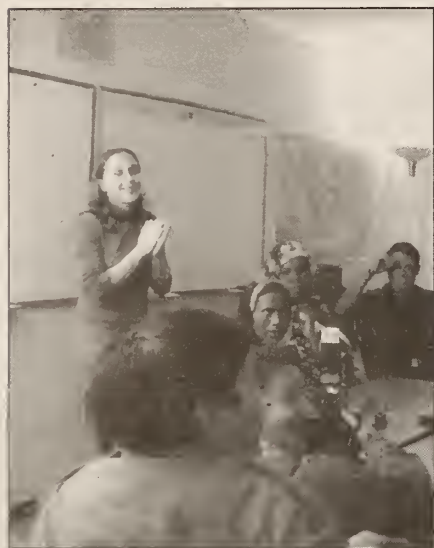


PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

ESL teacher Susan Jassen asks her Somali and Montagnard students about what they are thankful for as the class prepares for their first Thanksgiving in the United States Nov. 23. The most common answer: "freedom."

FEAST, from page 1

cution and a future that is bright in the United States.

The group usually gathers to learn English, but the English as a Second Language class is a bit different Nov. 23. After the lesson, the students celebrated their first Thanksgiving in the United States.

Teacher Sue Jassen, of the diocesan Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, taught a lesson focusing on the holiday.

"We are all here together to eat, to celebrate and to give thanks," she said. "What are we thankful for?"

A Bantu woman said her life in Somalia was rough, with no food and no school for the children.

"We came here and now we are Americans. Our children go to school," she said. "America is very, very nice, a free country."

There are nods of agreement all around the room.

The Bantu are a minority clan in Somalia whose persecution includes confiscation of their lands and denial of some basic rights. Although Somalia has received international aid over the last decade, a U.N. relief agency reports that the aid is withheld from the Bantu people, who lack food, shelter and education for their children.

The CSS Refugee Resettlement Office

settled 122 Bantu people in the Diocese of Charlotte in 2004. Since the refugee resettlement program began in 1975, more than 8,000 refugees from 23 countries have found homes in the diocese.

The Montagnards (a French word for mountain dweller and pronounced "mountainyards" in English) are Christians who have lived for centuries in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. They aided U.S. Special Forces during the 1960s, and many became prisoners in re-education camps after the Vietnam War ended. Hundreds have settled in Charlotte since the mid-1970s.

In the apartment's small kitchen, dinner awaited the students. Unlike other community meals where outsiders bring food, the students supplied the fare for this meal.

Jassen told them to bring their favorite foods. The table is piled high with Doritos, fresh fruit, a pizza and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. The closest thing to a turkey is some Kentucky Fried Chicken.

There is one native dish, a beef and rice mixture pronounced "barese," prepared by Fapuma Hassan, 28. In Somalia, she said, goat or camel would have been substituted for the stew beef and bones.

"I miss it," she said, referring to the camel meat.

On the stairs of the two-story apartment, 23-year-old Wau Ksor, a Montagnard, enjoys his first Thanksgiving dinner. There is plenty of food, but Ksor, like the others, has not adopted the American custom of loading a plate to the breaking point. His feast is made up of some orange slices, grapes, chips and a chicken wing.

He is happy and talkative. "I like freedom in America," he said in broken English. "There is much food in America."

Ksor worked as a lumberjack in Vietnam cutting trees that were used to build houses. He now works as a janitor at a Charlotte hotel. He left the city of Pleiku because of religious persecution.

With a look of sadness he tells the story of his church, which he claims was blown up by the South Vietnamese opposing the spread of the Christian faith. The bombing convinced him to leave Vietnam and, while he is happy in the United States, he misses his father and sisters back in Pleiku.

As he eats his Thanksgiving chips, his expression has the familiar look of someone who is enjoying a satisfying meal. In broken English, he gives thanks for what he has.

"There is freedom in America, there is food, there is everything," he said.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Down by the teepee



COURTESY PHOTO

Three kindergarten students (center) share a Native American song learned for Thanksgiving with their seventh-grade prayer partners in front of a teepee in the library of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Nov. 12. Pictured (from left): Zach Lassiter, Maggie Alt, Christian Gruebel, Sophie Phillips and Athene Rhoades. Prayer partners are older students paired up with younger students who meet monthly to do a variety of things together, including pray, attend Mass, read stories and play games.

Ahoy, pilgrims!



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students dressed as pilgrims prepare to form the shape of the Mayflower at St. Matthew School Nov. 23. Kindergarten teachers chalked a giant outline of the ship on the school playground before 100 students and three teachers got "on board" to represent the 103 original pilgrim settlers. After learning historical facts about the Mayflower's voyage, students dressed as Native Americans welcomed the pilgrims to the "new land."



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BIRTHDAY GIRL

Basilica parishioner turns 100

Alice Wynhoff reflects on century of memories

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Alice Marguerite Wynhoff was born on Nov. 14, 1904, four years before Henry Ford released the Model T.

Although she has outlived her siblings and most of her friends, more than 40 guests — nieces and nephews, neighbors, caregivers and former coworkers — attended her 100th birthday party in Asheville Nov. 14.

Wynhoff's fellow parishioners at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville signed a three-foot high birthday card, which Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor, presented to her along with a special blessing.

"I never expected to live to 100," said Wynhoff, sitting on her couch with her faithful companion, Gigi, a black poodle, snuggled next to her.

Asked her advice on living 100 years, Wynhoff responded with a laugh and said, "Oh, I wouldn't recommend it. You can't do anything."

"It's difficult for someone who was as active as I was to just sit around," she said. "I used to ice skate in the park on the pond in the winter and play tennis in the summer."

She excelled at tennis. Nearby in the bookcase, her name is engraved on a silver trophy, her first place win for the Daughters of Isabelle tournament in 1929.

"Now I have to get used to that thing," she said, pointing to her cane. "My doctor insists I use it around the house, so I'm trying."

Born when Theodore Roosevelt was president, Wynhoff has lived through 18 presidential administrations. Woodrow Wilson is the first president she clearly remembers.

Wynhoff attended St. Thomas Aquinas School in Milwaukee, where Dominican nuns instructed her.

"The head nun was very strict. Actually, they all were, but we learned," said Wynhoff.

She attended a public high school because the Catholic high school was too far from her home. She worked as a bookkeeper at a local store before attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison, what she described as the most enjoyable years of her life.

"I did well enough in school and didn't have to worry," she recalled. "It was fun but a lot of work, too."



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Alice Marguerite Wynhoff sits with her poodle, Gigi, at her home in Asheville. Wynhoff, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, celebrated her 100th birthday Nov. 14.

After earning a bachelor's degree in English and history, Wynhoff taught fourth and fifth grades for four years before resigning to care for her ill mother until her death.

She can still remember attending downtown festivities with her father the day after World War I ended in November 1918; and a certain notorious gangster in the "roaring 1920s."

"I remember Al 'Scarface' Capone," she said. "Milwaukee is close to Chicago, so we were conscious of what he was doing and followed the news closely."

Wynhoff can also recall the despair of the Depression.

"The Depression was really bad. I had to stand in line for bread and potatoes and certain other foods," she said. "It was not a pleasant feeling, standing in those lines and feeling as if I'd never again get to earn a living."

"I decided that if I ever got to earn money again, I'd save a lot and never have to go through that again," she said.

In 1939, Wynhoff went to work for the U.S. government on the 1940 census.

"We used punch cards during the census," she said. "Then the government needed someone who knew about punch cards to work in the weather bureau."

After working in Pittsburgh, New York, New Orleans and Washington, D.C., Wynhoff moved to Asheville in 1951 to work as a climatologist for the Air Weather Service Bureau, having trained in that field at Tulane University in New Orleans.

She retired after 30 years, and now lives at home with the help of several caregivers.

Over the years, Wynhoff has been an active parishioner of Basilica of St. Lawrence and its Altar Society. She attended Mass until 2003; now Gail Carroll, her homebound minister, brings her a church bulletin and the Eucharist each week.

Although she has no time for television during the day, she often watches it at night.

"I used to watch Johnny Carson. I sure miss him. He was good," she said. "Now, I'm happy to be in a rut. I have enough to keep busy."

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for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and as Legislative Coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. He currently serves on the boards of Bread for the World and the Catholic Health Association. He and his wife Linda have four children.



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COURTESY PHOTO

St. Patrick School students view a 320-foot mural they created around a construction site in Charlotte during its unveiling Nov. 23.

ST. PATRICK STUDENTS UNVEIL MURAL AROUND CONSTRUCTION SITE

CHARLOTTE — Students at St. Patrick School are helping to make their community a little more colorful.

The school unveiled a 320-foot mural as part of a joint community project with Summit Properties Nov. 23.

A Summit Properties representative approached the kindergarten-through-fifth-grade school with the idea of creating a colorful perimeter around the nearby construction area in Charlotte's Dilworth neighborhood, where the developer is building new apartments.

The student project, themed "Growing Together," involved students painting artwork on 40 large boards under the direction art teacher Lisa Underwood. Each of St. Patrick School's 290 students has at least one brush stroke on the mural.

"The message I'd like to convey to my students, via this co-op project, is

that when we communicate our life experiences through visual arts, the impact can be strong and very moving," said Underwood.

"The simple yet profound mural theme of 'Growing Together' is an ideal example of this message," she said. "We have experienced growth by doing the project. We've bonded and already feel a positive effect."

Before the unveiling, students attended Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral. A police escort accompanied the students, teachers, parents and Father Paul Gary, rector, to the construction site two blocks away, where Principal Angela Montague thanked the students, parent volunteers and Underwood for their efforts.

Students then released 290 green and white balloons before returning to school.

"Collectively, we've produced something that hopefully many people will enjoy," said Underwood. "This project should be a wonderful memory for all involved."

DECIDING VOTES

Catholic students experience campaigning, voting

WINSTON-SALEM — Students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem recently got an in-depth look at voting.

The entire student body was involved in an election simulation that began in September and culminated with October debates and mock voting on Election Day, Nov. 2.

Kindergarten, first and second grades were in charge of the election celebration. They baked cookies and created buttons for students to wear after they voted.

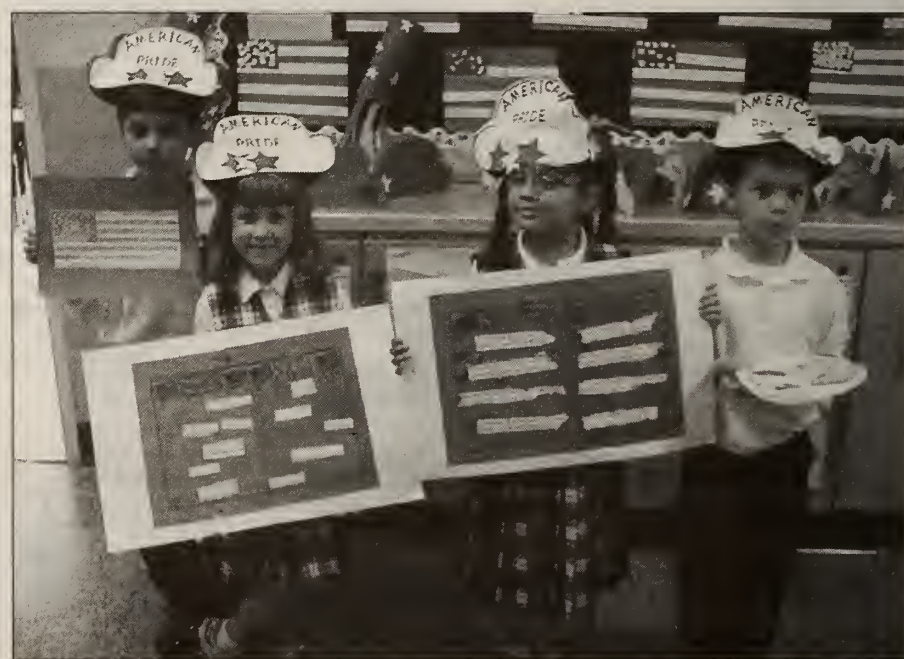
Third-graders studied past presi-

dents and their home states. They created PowerPoint presentations and a picture book based on their research.

The fourth grade researched presidents and reported "presidential trivia" each morning in September and October, and published an election newsletter for the students' families.

Fifth-graders acted as the Board of Election, deciding many things, from the size of posters to the voting age.

The middle-school students researched the candidates, created and presented commercials and debated the issues.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem display materials and cookies prepared for the school's mock election Nov. 2. The entire student body was involved in the process.

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HIGH BARS

Catholic high schooler receives scholarship to Boise university

KERNERSVILLE — Courtney Marie Achter, a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, has received a full athletic scholarship to attend Boise State University in Idaho in fall 2005.

Achter, a local gymnastics standout, is one of five high school seniors in five states to sign national letters-of-intent to attend Boise State University and compete on the school's gymnastics team in 2005-06. She plans to focus on physical therapy or special education at the Idaho university.

"She is a talented local gymnast with great technique," said Sam Sandmire, Boise State head coach. "We know her potential and are excited to have her join our team."

A member of the High Point Gymnastics Academy Team since 1994, Achter is a 10-time state qualifier, seven-time regional qualifier and three-time national qualifier. In the 2004 Junior Olympic Nationals, she placed ninth in bars and 16th in the all-around competition.

"Courtney has great technique and clean lines on every event," said Sandmire.

Achter has remained on the Bishop McGuinness Principal's List during her time in high school, and



Courtney Marie Achter

was selected for the National Honor Society and Who's Who Among American High School Students this year. She is also a four-year member of her high school's Student Ambassador program and Spanish Club.

Achter and her family are longtime members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, where she has been involved in the youth ministry and Vacation Bible School programs. She also has served as "team buddy" for Special Olympics and as a volunteer for the Adams Farm Community Association Recreation Committee for three years.

Charlotte Catholic honors alumni

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School's Alumni Association recently held its seventh annual Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and presented its Distinguished Alumni Award.

The ceremony took place during halftime of the varsity football game between Charlotte Catholic and Mount Pleasant High School Oct. 29.

The Sports Hall of Fame inductees, selected because of their outstanding athletic achievements at Charlotte Catholic, were John Cassels (class of 1960), Chris Kouri (class of 1988) and Mike Melvin (class of 1993).

The Distinguished Alumni Award, presented to a Charlotte Catholic graduate who has demonstrated excellence throughout his or her life and represents the ideals of Charlotte Catholic, was awarded to Debbie Stathakis (class of 1979).



COURTESY PHOTO

Sports Hall of Fame inductees and the Distinguished Alumni Award recipient take to the field during halftime of a football game at Charlotte Catholic High School Oct. 29. Pictured (from left): Steve Carpenter, vice principal; Jack Cassels; Debbie Stathakis; Mike Melvin; Chris Kouri; and Robert Boyd, alumni association president.

Charlotte Catholic honored as football team of the year

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School's football team was recently named recipient of the Charlotte Regional Sports Commission's 2004 High School Football Team of the Year Award.

The award, presented to a Charlotte-area team that best exemplifies the characteristics of hard work, dedication, perseverance and sportsmanship, will be given during the annual Charlotte Touchdown Club's "Bronko Nagurki Trophy Award Dinner" in Charlotte Dec. 6.

"The Charlotte Sports Commission takes great pride in bestowing this award," said Michael Mistler, the commission's director of operations. "The Charlotte Catholic football team, in achieving remarkable success this year, certainly exudes these qualities."

Previous winners of the award are A.L. Brown-Kannapolis (1997), Vance (1998), Butler (1999), Independence (2000, 2002), Piedmont (2001) and Charlotte Latin (2003) high schools.

The Charlotte Sports Commission brings sporting events to Charlotte that benefit the region in economic impact and quality of life. Additionally, the commission attracts conferences, sports organizations and teams to the Charlotte market.

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—James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Books suitable for Christmas gift-giving

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The following children's books are suitable for Christmas giving.

"My Little Sister Hugged an Ape," by Bill Grossman, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes.

"My little sister hugged an ape," a bug, and some strange animal for every letter of the alphabet. This book is more than an alphabet book, it is rhyming fun at its best.

Hawkes' colorful illustrations of the wide-eyed sister hugging — or being hugged by — one animal after another add hilarity to a great story that includes just enough slightly gross stuff to appeal even to children who do not like to read or be read to. Ages 6-9.

"The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq," by Jeanette Winter.

This is a true story of heroism from Iraq. Alia Muhammad Baker is the librarian in the Iraqi city of Basra. As war approached, she became worried about the fate of the library's 30,000 books. Before the library burned in the war, she moved the books to a neighboring restaurant for protection. Then she carted home the books, filling her house and some friends' houses.

Winter's illustrations emphasize saving the books, not the gore of war. This book is a good alternative perspective on the war, which nearly every child is aware of. Ages 5-10.

"Going for the Record," by Julie A. Swanson.

Seventeen-year-old Leah Weiczynkowski's soccer career and college prospects seem to be coming together, but her life begins to unravel when she finds out her father has cancer and has three months to live. What follows is a gripping, compassionate tale of a young girl's struggle to face her father's death and set priorities.

Swanson tells the tale of dying in a compassionate yet realistic manner; it is a love story that is not sappy but is marked by the mixed-up emotions of a teenage girl in a very tough situation. Ages 13-16.

"Clare and Francis," by Guido Visconte, illustrated by Bimba Landmann.

The story of St. Francis and St. Clare is retold in simple prose, but the stunning illustrations make this book a keeper. Visconte tells of Francis' and Clare's decisions to renounce wealth and help others. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, Landmann's colorful, full-page and minute illustrations adorned with gold make this book a million times more valuable. Ages 8 and up.

"Calavera Abecedario, A Day of the Dead Alphabet Book," by Jeanette Winter. Harcourt Inc.

"Calavera Abecedario" is a delightful, fun ABC book of skeletons! Inspired by Mexican artist Don Pedro Linares, who with his family made papier-mache objects, the book gives a brief description of how the "calaveras," or skeletons, come to life, then uses the "calaveras" to run through the ABCs, with different skeletons representing different people.

The translations for most of the Spanish words are clear from the bright, cheerful illustrations, but the author includes an alphabet glossary in the back with translations. All ages.

"Irish and Walter and the Substitute Teacher," by Elissa Haden Guest, illustrated by Christine Davenier.

Another easy-reader about Iris and Walter: Iris is happy and surprised when her grandpa is the substitute teacher, but by the second day she begins to struggle with sharing him with the other students. This four-chapter book has a happy ending, although Chapter 3 is titled "Misery." Davenier's humorous illustrations add to the fun. Ages 6-8.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 12, 2004

Dec. 12, Third Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:6-10
- 2) James 5:7-10
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

ADVENT MESSAGE BRINGS HOPE TO HARDSHIP, DESPAIR

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A few years ago my husband, who at that time was working for a national conservation organization, guided a group of amateur naturalists on a spring junket to Big Bend National Park in southwest Texas. One of the trip's highlights by far was the profusion of wildflowers in the desert, both in numbers of blossoms and the variety of species.

Even more remarkable was the fact that some veteran members of the park's historical society saw flowers they had not observed in a quarter-century. It seems that the seeds of some wildflower species lie dormant for years until the right amount of moisture is available to them, and since the park had experienced higher than average rainfall the year before they were at last able to sprout, blooming forth in all their colorful glory.

This is the kind of imagery that the

biblical writers use to convey hope to believers who patiently await the coming of the Lord, whether they are Isaiah's exiles returning to Jerusalem from Babylon; John's followers, who await the Messiah; or James' community, who await the risen Jesus' return in glory. In every case, the writers were addressing the inevitable weariness and discouragement that come with seemingly endless waiting.

Their response to the weary (to paraphrase) was the proclamation: "Look at the signs around you, and hang on just a little longer — your deliverance is closer than you think!"

Although the Son of God became flesh more than 2,000 years ago, the timeless message of Advent is for everyone who is experiencing discouragement and doubting that things ever will get better, or is going through the weariness of bearing hardship, or is in despair that prayer ever will be answered. Like the dormant seeds that await the life-giving rain in the desert, so the hope that lies buried in the hearts of all believers will bloom and bear fruit if we but wait patiently for the Lord's coming.

And the Lord is coming!

Questions:

In what ways have you become weary of waiting on the Lord? What hopes lie dormant in you right now, waiting for the Lord to bring them to life?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 11

Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; Monday (St. Nicholas), Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; Tuesday (St. Ambrose), Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; Wednesday (Immaculate Conception), Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; Thursday (St. Juan Diego), Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; Friday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; Saturday, (Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 18

Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 35:1-6, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; Monday (St. Lucy), Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17, Matthew 21:23-27; Tuesday (St. John of the Cross), Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; Wednesday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25, Luke 7:19-23; Thursday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 54:1-10, Luke 7:24-30; Friday (Late Advent Weekday), Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; Saturday (Late Advent Weekday), Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24.

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Sony BMG withdraws McFadden video after Catholic students taunted

BY CIAN MOLLOY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DUBLIN, Ireland — A promotional pop video for Brian McFadden, a former member of the popular Irish boy band Westlife, has caused students at a Dublin school to be taunted about allegations of child abuse.

Sony BMG recalled copies of the video sent to television stations worldwide after officials at St. Fintan's High School claimed they had been unfairly identified.

The video depicted McFadden as a taxi driver driving around north Dublin and reminiscing about his childhood.

Although St. Fintan's High School was not depicted in the video, at one stage McFadden was shown standing beside school railings bearing the plaque "St. Fintan's Boys' School" while he sang about being gay and being subjected to corporal punishment by Christian Brothers.

Although McFadden went to a Christian Brothers school, at no time was he a pupil at St. Fintan's. Critics also pointed out that McFadden, 24, was raised in an era when a culture of

brutality was no longer common in Irish schools. Corporal punishment was made illegal in 1982.

In a statement, Sony BMG said they thought the name of the school shown in the video was fictitious.

"As soon as we were made aware of the issue, the promotional video was removed from TV stations, the shot was removed and a new version of the video was issued," said a Sony BMG statement.

However, the headmaster of St. Fintan's, Richard Fogarty, said he did not believe use of the school name was accidental.

"We are the only St. Fintan's School in the north side and the only Christian Brothers school in this area," he said. "Brian McFadden lives in Portmarnock, in the next parish, so he should be aware of that."

Fogarty said that in his 30 years as a teacher and principal at the school, he had "never known of any culture of brutality here."

He said although the school was ranked in the top 15 percent of Irish secondary schools for academic achievement, students were being taunted because of the video.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Lino Rulli is host and producer of "Lino at Large," the latest in a growing portfolio of radio programs sponsored by the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The program targets people in their 20s and 30s.

New Catholic radio program for U.S. young adults debuts

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — "Lino at Large," which hit the airwaves this fall, is the latest in a growing portfolio of radio programs sponsored by the Catholic Communication Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The fast-paced half-hour weekly program is described by its host and producer, Lino Rulli, as "Catholic radio for people our age," meaning those in their 20s and 30s.

"Lino at Large" can be heard Sunday evenings, 8:30-9:00 p.m. central time, on the Relevant Radio network, which owns and operates 14 stations and has an additional 13 affiliate stations across the East and Midwest.

Currently, only 92.7, WBPL-LP in Wilmington is the only affiliate in North Carolina to carry Relevant Radio. More information on the stations is available on the network's Web site, www.relevantradio.com.

The program is also being offered to all Catholic dioceses and to Catholic radio stations that are not part of the Relevant Radio network.

The "Lino at Large" radio program, which began airing Oct. 24, was inspired by "Generation Cross," an Emmy Award-winning Minneapolis-area cable TV show that Rulli created and hosted for six years.

"Generation Cross" was also seen on television stations in several Catholic dioceses through a grant from the bishops' communication campaign, known as CCC. Earlier this year, Rulli decided to cease production of the TV program to concentrate on radio.

"People always said I had a face for radio," said Rulli. "But seriously, I am very excited about the opportunity to reach new audiences with 'Lino at Large.'"

"'Generation Cross' took a very creative approach to reaching young people," said Pat Ryan Garcia, who as the CCC's director of distribution oversees radio for the USCCB.

"I thought that Lino's quirky combination of faith and humor would work equally well on radio," Garcia added in a statement.

The "Lino at Large" radio program is geared toward both young adult Catholics and non-Catholics who are interested in exploring what it means to be a Catholic in the world today.

Regular features of the program include:

— "What's on Father Peter's Mind?" Father Peter Laird, a teacher at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., who recently received a doctorate in sacred theology from the Alphonsian Academy in Rome, discusses current issues in the church.

— "Beat the Klock," with Father John Klockeman, spiritual director for the seminarians at St. John Vianney College Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He answers listeners' questions about the Catholic faith in one minute or less.

— "Point/No Point," with comedian Bill Arnold and host Lino Rulli. They talk things over and offer advice. Arnold is co-writer and star of "Triple Espresso," a touring comedy troupe that has sold more than 1 million tickets.

The CCC also produces three other half-hour weekly radio programs: "Catholic Radio Weekly," a news and information program that debuted in 2001; "Catholic Bookmarks," which began production last summer and features author interviews and Catholic best-seller lists; and "American Catholic Radio," which also debuted this summer and is produced for the CCC by Franciscan Radio.

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Deacons class forming

DEACONS, from page 1

charity, ministry of the word, as well as ministry of the liturgy," said Deacon Ben Wenning, director of the diocesan office of the permanent diaconate.

The nature of a deacon's work includes assisting the pastor and pastoral

associate of his assigned parish, primarily in the areas of prison ministry, RCIA, adult education, hospital visitation, baptism, marriage preparation and assisting at Mass.

Although a permanent deacon can preach at Mass, confer baptism and officiate at marriages and funerals, his ministry is not limited to liturgical functions, according to Deacon Wenning.

While the diaconate is a permanent office, it is a voluntary part-time position. Therefore, most deacons hold full-time jobs in order to support themselves and their families.

"Deacons volunteer about 10 hours each week in their parishes, based on their availability," said Deacon Louis Pais, permanent deacon at St. Mark Church in Huntersville and diocesan director of diaconate formation.

Like parish priests, deacons are assigned to a particular parish or ministry by the bishop of the diocese.

"Deacons are ordained for the service to the diocese," said Deacon Pais. "We go where the need is."

Currently there are 74 permanent deacons ministering in the Diocese of Charlotte, and 16 more men are in formation for ordination in June 2006.

The next class for the permanent diaconate begins in January 2006. Preparation consists of six months of spiritual development, completion of the two-year lay ministry program and four years of academic development.

The upcoming informational meetings at Our Lady of Grace and St. Matthew churches will help interested men discern the possible call to this ministry.

The permanent diaconate for the

Diocese of Charlotte is open to men who are practicing Catholics, age 32 years and older residing within the diocese, with the recommendation of their pastors. In addition, a candidate must be a "conscientious believer in the faith," have completed the lay ministry program and have a "clear vision of Christ's Church in accord with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council."

Like any ministerial or lay vocation, the diaconate is a calling, said Deacon Pais. Candidates for the permanent diaconate should therefore prayerfully discern their calling.

"Ultimately, the permanent diaconate is a calling to service," said Deacon Pais.

WANT MORE INFO?

Information meetings on the permanent diaconate will be held Dec. 11 at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and Dec. 18 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

Applications will be accepted January through March 2005. Any man interested in applying for candidacy may write the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OPENING DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005

Immaculata Catholic School located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina is accepting applications for the position of Elementary School Principal starting with the 2005/06 academic year. Immaculata is a Pre-K to Grade 8 parish school with an enrollment of 180 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Qualified candidates must be a practicing Catholic, have or be eligible for a North Carolina principal's certification, and possess a Master's Degree in Educational Administration or its equivalent. Previous administrative experience is desirable. This is a 12 month position with a competitive salary offering. Applications can be accessed @ www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html

Interested candidates are invited to submit a letter of application and resume by January 31, 2005 to:

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Archdiocese of Atlanta

St. Mary Catholic School is accepting applications for the position of elementary school principal for the 2005-2006 school year. St. Mary Catholic School is located in Rome, Georgia, which is approximately one hour northwest of Atlanta. St. Mary is a PK-8 elementary school enrolling 350 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Qualified candidates will be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's degree in educational administration (or its equivalent) and will have at least 3 years of demonstrated experience in administration. Salary and benefits are competitive.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference, and university credentials to:

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Archdiocese of Atlanta
680 W. Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30308-1984



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Archdiocese of Atlanta

St. Joseph Catholic School is accepting applications for the position of elementary school principal for the 2005-2006 school year. St. Joseph Catholic School is located in Athens, Georgia, which is approximately one hour northeast of Atlanta and home of the University of Georgia. St. Joseph is a PK-8 elementary school enrolling 370 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Qualified candidates will be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's degree in educational administration (or its equivalent) and will have at least 3 years of demonstrated experience in administration. Salary and benefits are competitive.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Archdiocese of Atlanta

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School is accepting applications for the position of elementary school principal for the 2005-2006 school year. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School is located in a central suburban area of Atlanta, Georgia. Our Lady of the Assumption is a PK-8 elementary school enrolling 470 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Qualified candidates will be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's degree in educational administration (or its equivalent), be certifiable in the state of Georgia, and will have at least 3 years of demonstrated experience in administration. Salary and benefits are competitive.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and University credentials to:

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U.N. fails to ban cloning

CLONING, from page 1

tee of the U.N. General Assembly decided Nov. 19 that it would give up attempts to get a convention and try to deal with the subject in a compromise declaration.

The declaration would lack the legal force that a convention has for those countries that ratify it.

A resolution introduced by Belgium and supported by a number of other countries called for a convention that would rule out reproductive cloning to make a baby but let each country decide its own policy regarding therapeutic cloning, whereby scientists clone embryonic stem cells for therapies to repair or regenerate tissue to cure diseases.

Supporters of the resolution argued that a consensus already existed against reproductive cloning, and the United Nations could and should move quickly to put that consensus into international law.

But they were not willing to ban cloning for research purposes, which many people say holds the prospect of bringing cures for diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

Although Secretary-General Kofi Annan was not directly involved in the legal committee's action, he said his personal view was to "go for therapeutic cloning."

Another resolution, introduced by Costa Rica and supported by the United States and others, asked for a convention outlawing all forms of human cloning, reproductive or therapeutic.

These countries contended that any form of human cloning was a violation of human dignity, and that the desired therapeutic results could be obtained through other means.

Disrespecting human dignity

From the time the proposal against reproductive cloning was first presented to the United Nations in 2001, the Vatican has insisted that all forms of human cloning be outlawed.

This position was presented at the world body that year by the nuncio at the time, then-Archbishop Renato R. Martino. Named a cardinal in October 2003, he is now head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

This year, in a paper issued Sept. 27, that Vatican reiterated its opposition to "the cloning of human embryos for the purpose of destroying them in order to harvest their stem cells."

As an alternative, it said the use of adult stem cells had already proved fruitful in research, and "does not entail

any ethical problems."

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's U.N. nuncio since October 2002, has made the cloning issue a principal focus of his efforts, and this fall used a newly won right for his mission to circulate the Vatican paper as a General Assembly document.

In a statement to the legal committee Oct. 21, he said the distinction drawn between therapeutic and reproductive cloning "seems specious" because both procedures use the same cloning process and both "involve disrespect for the dignity of the human being."

He also argued that the cloning issue was of such basic importance to the human community as a whole that it should be regulated by an international convention and not left to the decision of individual countries.

The nuncio declined to comment on the abandonment of efforts to get a convention on cloning. But in an interview with Catholic News Service at the end of last year's General Assembly session, he said the world body should produce a convention "to send a message," even if some countries refused to ratify it.

However, members of the legal committee decided through informal consultations that there was not enough consensus to proceed.

Disagreeing nations

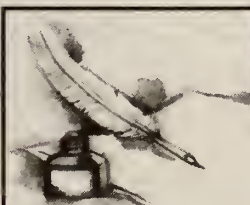
Italy, a co-sponsor of Costa Rica's resolution against all human cloning, introduced draft language for a U.N. Declaration on Human Cloning Nov. 17, and two days later the committee agreed to make it the basis of further consideration of the issue.

Mohamed Bennouna, Morocco's ambassador to the United Nations and committee chairman, said it would have been "damaging for the committee to not come together on an issue with such grave consequences for humanity."

The Islamic countries, sometimes allied with the Vatican on life issues, have not played an identifiable role in the cloning debate, and reportedly have indicated their religious authorities have not yet made a definitive judgment on the question.

In nonbinding language, the declaration says that "member states are called upon to prohibit any attempts to create human life through cloning processes," and are called upon to adopt measures against any "genetic engineering techniques that may be contrary to human dignity."

A working group of the legal committee is to consider the draft declaration in February, and the committee would decide Feb. 18 whether to send the results of the working group's discussions to the General Assembly for final approval.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Weather forecasting and prayer

Sometimes they go hand in hand

Have you ever checked the weather before a big weekend?

You turn on the television and the forecaster tells you it's going to be chilly on Saturday and rainy on Sunday. No big problem — you plan to dress warmly one day and stay indoors on the other. Unfortunately, it turns out that Saturday is cold and wet and Sunday has nothing but sunshine.

Being fooled by the weather forecast is a shared experience in America that is as welcome as a traffic jam. Why does the media put so much emphasis on a forecast that is sometimes wrong? Why do we pay such close attention? Everyone knows that it's cold in winter and hot in summer. Shouldn't we just leave it at that?

Weather forecasters are like stockbrokers and gamblers — they try to predict the future. Following their advice can eventually annoy us, or in the case of the stockbroker or gambler, may cost us a great deal of money.

Scripture, it would seem, is on the side of not knowing what the future holds for us. In First Thessalonians, Paul tells us not to dwell on the future (5:1-2): "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

So why do we watch weather forecasts so closely? Why do we plan our activities around the predicted high temperature of the day when we know there is a chance that it is wrong?

Al Conklin is an experienced meteorologist at WBTV in Charlotte. Conklin's job is to forecast the future. He admits that he isn't always right with his forecasts, especially when he is looking more than three days into the future.

"I never take the credit when the sun shines down. That's God's work, not mine," he said.

Conklin is a committed Christian who "believes the Bible word for word as infallible."

Conklin talked recently about how he squares his Christian faith with the crystal ball aspect of his work. He explained that weather systems, even catastrophic ones like hurricanes, actually do some good.

"Hurricanes move warm air from the equator to the poles," he said. This movement keeps one part of the planet from being too cold and the

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



other from being too hot.

That's great for Mother Earth. Of course, if you live in a mobile home park in a low lying area of Florida during storm season, it's awfully difficult to see the higher purpose of a Category 4 hurricane that threatens to destroy everything you own. That's where Conklin and the other forecasters come in.

"I take great satisfaction in knowing that I helped people prepare for a hurricane, a tornado or some other life threatening event," he said.

Conklin said he loves his work, but like the rest of us he doesn't always understand the weather. Part of his job takes him to elementary schools where students get to see a TV star in person who answers their questions.

"I recall a question from a youngster who simply asked me, 'Why does God allow bad weather like tornadoes?'" said Conklin. "My answer was that I didn't know. But I do know that after bad weather hits, it allows me a chance to serve God."

Conklin, through his church, helped the people of a small community in Illinois rebuild after a tornado.

Perhaps Conklin could rely on Proverbs 25:2 than the above verse from Thessalonians to justify his work at peering into the future: "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings."

We won't ever know for sure what tomorrow may bring. Weather forecasting simply reminds us that things are going to change, and for that we need to be prepared. Al Conklin, weather forecaster, will be the first to tell you that prayer is the best preparation of all.

David Hains is the communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Pope, at audience, says those in power must rule with justice

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Those who govern have a moral obligation to protect the poor and oppressed, Pope John Paul II said.

During his weekly general audience at the Vatican Dec. 1, the pope said that justice for all, especially the poor, is "fundamental for good government."

The Bible says that violating their rights is "an act against God, a religious crime," he said.

During his talk at the packed Pope Paul VI audience hall, the pope, inspired by Psalm 72, stressed the duty of those in power to commit themselves to moral integrity.

Good governments and rulers will exercise justice "above all with regard to the poor, who usually are the victims of the powerful," the pope said.

"Those who violate the rights of the poor don't only commit an act that is politically incorrect and morally unjust. For the Bible they also perpetrate an act against God, a religious crime, because the Lord is the defender of the miserable and the oppressed, of the widows and the orphans, that is those who don't have human protectors," he said.

In a departure from his prepared text, the pope said that the psalmist emphasized the "responsibility of those who have been entrusted with power."

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



They must be "honest and just, promote peace and take care of the weak and needy," he said. The ruler who succeeds in these tasks "will enjoy the respect of his people who will pray for him every day," the pope said.

He said the psalm illustrated the "annunciation of Christ, the Messiah" who came to establish "the new order."

In his printed text, the pope said the psalm locates the just and peaceful reign of the messiah with "a gaze that extends all over the map ... that involves Arabs and nomads, rulers of distant lands and even enemies in a universal embrace that is not rarely sung by the psalms."

He called the psalm "a lively and impassioned plea for the gift of justice."

The psalm said that the king "shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. ... He shall defend the afflicted among the people, save the children of the poor and crush the oppressor."

Letter to the Editor

Nothing but 'Good News'

David Hains wrote an excellent column on "The Good News vs. the news" (Nov. 19).

In a discussion group, we were badgering the negative news issue (in the media). Fortunately, I could point to *The Catholic News & Herald* as a consistent source of good news — it's FULL of good news!

Church renovations, children dressed for an All Saints party, churches fighting violence, the pope's messages — wow! You have a corner on "good news."

Keep up the good work.

— Joe Pawlick
Asheville

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Abortion and child abuse

Studies show links between abortion, neglect, depression

There is a significant statistical association between child abuse and abortion — a mutual relationship, whereby having an abortion makes the abuse of subsequent children more likely, and being abused as a child makes having an abortion later in life more likely.

Obviously, and first of all, abortion itself is the worst form of child abuse. Secondly, it should be noted that we are talking about statistical associations. These connections do not mean that everyone who has an abortion will abuse her children, or that everyone who is abused will have an abortion.

Having said that, let's examine why having an abortion may lead to more child abuse.

First of all, every pregnancy is a "crisis" in the best sense of the term. Pregnancy creates unique demands and challenges to the mother to mature; the body, the mind and the spirit must grow in order to accommodate to the child. This "crisis of incorporation," as psychologists call it, puts the mother at a crossroads: either she accepts the changes required of her by the pregnancy, or she aborts the child, hence choosing to regress rather than mature.

Guest Column

FATHER
FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



The choice not to mature, but rather to remain selfish, makes it more likely that the mother will remain a less mature parent, and this immaturity is a key cause of abuse and neglect of other children.

A second problem is that fathers have no legal right to save their unborn child from an abortion. Not knowing if the child will live or die creates ambivalence in the father and a reluctance to bond to the child. Unattached to their baby, they show less support to their partner as well.

After an abortion, the alienation worsens. Some studies show as high as an 80 percent rate of breakup of relationships after abortion. The mother's anger at the lack of support from the baby's father can be dis-

placed to a born child.

A third reason why abortion can lead to child abuse is related to bonding. Having an abortion makes it more difficult to bond to a subsequent child, and babies who are not well bonded are more likely to be abused and neglected. A pregnancy following abortion creates more anxiety, caused in part by a fatalistic sense that the child will be abnormal (as a punishment for having aborted the previous one.) This anxiety can interfere with bonding.

Moreover, if the grief from the abortion is not adequately processed, it becomes a post-partum depression, which interferes with bonding. When one is still grieving a lost baby, one cannot attach to a new baby because the attachment is still to the one who died. Failure to attach to the one who is alive can lead to abuse and neglect.

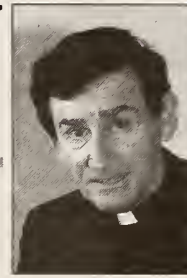
There can also be a sense of disappointment in the subsequent child, who is compared to the aborted baby who is often idealized in the mother's mind. Expectations of the new child, sometimes viewed as a "replacement baby," are not fulfilled, resulting in anger that can lead to abuse and neglect.

Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.

The holiday spirit

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE
HEMRICK
GUEST COLUMNIST



For some, the Christmas holidays can be the best of times, while for others the worst of times. How do we make them a memorable time?

The holidays are a multidimensional experience. The better we understand this and choose what is basic to true happiness, the more we'll desire to repeat the holiday experience year after year.

Let's start with buying, giving and receiving gifts.

Several weeks prior to Thanksgiving the media begin a marketing blitz. No generation before us ever has had so many choices to make when selecting gifts.

We are encouraged to buy clothing, cosmetics and jewelry that give comfort and adorn. The worlds of technology and toys offer us gadgets that are both useful and entertaining. Exotic foods are lauded as the perfect gift for the palate.

Travel is another dimension of the holidays. Christmas is a time to visit loved ones or to be visited by them. Travel schedules are made far in advance, and a new excitement stirs within us as the time approaches to see someone we haven't seen for some time.

Yet another dimension of Christmas is found in the outreach by numerous institutions at this time of year to the poor, sick, troubled, elderly, prisoners and our armed forces abroad with gifts, food, clothing and heartfelt comfort.

Then there is the Advent season. As we move toward Christmas, so too does our liturgy with its stories of the awaited Messiah. Entering into the spirit of Advent is bound to help make the entire holiday season memorable.

Advent teaches us that the primary purpose of holiday gift-giving is not the giving of material things, but the giving of self. This is a good time to make a gift of ourselves to others.

The greatest gift of Christ was the gift of his heart to us. People often speak of their "significant other." Advent prepares us for Christ, who made everyone his significant other.

Our Christmas will assume new significance if when giving gifts, visiting loved ones or reaching out to troubled people we recognize them as others who are significant — people whose desires, fears, joys, hopes, faith and love truly matter to us.

The purpose of gift-giving at Christmas is to make us one in spirit with others. When two spirits come together in this manner, an unforgettable moment is created — one that has us wishing it never would pass and one that assures we'll happily look forward to the next holiday season.

What is it like to die?

Awakening to eternal life removes doubts

Five-year-old Meggie had been battling leukemia for more than half her young life. The disease went into remission for a while but returned stronger than ever, and no treatment could slow its growth.

By the time Meggie entered kindergarten, it was clear to everyone that she was going to lose the battle. Her parents tried to prepare themselves for Meggie's death, but how can one prepare for the unthinkable?

Meggie was such a spitfire. She had remained cheerful even when radiation sapped her strength and chemotherapy snatched away her dark brown curls. She was a favorite at the Children's Hospital, staging wheelchair races with the nurses and singing to fussy babies until they grinned at her with their bald heads and toothless smiles.

From the earliest days, Meggie had bubbled over with curiosity and enthusiasm, sometimes exasperating her parents by asking questions from morning until long after dark. Where do fireflies sleep? Why do we have toes? When Mary and Joseph went on a date, who baby-sat for baby Jesus? Who takes care of Big Bird when he gets sick? Can I have a cookie?

As Meggie grew sicker, her questions focused increasingly on death,

and yet she did not speak in the frightened hush tones typically used by adults. Instead, she was as matter-of-fact about death as she was about frogs and ice cream cones.

What would happen to her body after she died? Would Santa Claus know how to find her? Would her parents replace her with another little girl? Could she bring her teddy bear with her to heaven? Does Jesus have a teddy bear?

Meggie's mother was able to answer most of the child's questions, but she dreaded the day when Meggie would ask about the actual process of dying. How could she explain something that she didn't understand herself?

Sure enough, the day finally arrived.

"Mama, what is it like to die?" Meggie asked with innocent curiosity. "Does it hurt? Will I be scared? Will you be with me?"

Meggie's innocence pierced her mother's heart, yet at that precise moment she knew exactly what to say.

"You know how sometimes you get scared in the middle of the night?" her mother began. "When that happens, you run across the hall to our room and climb into bed with Daddy and me, right?"

Meggie nodded her head, her

Coming of Age

M. REGINA
CRAM
CNS COLUMNIST



dark eyes capturing every word.

"When you wake up the next morning, where are you Sweetheart?" her mother continued.

Meggie never had thought of that before. "I'm back in my own bed," she replied in surprise.

"That's right," her mother explained. "While you're asleep, your daddy picks you up in his big, strong arms and carries you back to your bed where you belong."

"That's what it's like to die. We're here on earth for only a little while, Sweetheart. Then, when the time is right, our heavenly Father picks us up in his big, strong arms and gently carries us home to heaven, which is where we really belong anyway."

"Oh," said Meggie with a contented sigh. "That's not scary at all."

A few weeks later, Meggie quietly slipped into a coma. The following night, her heavenly Father picked her up in his big, strong arms and gently carried her home to where she belonged.

Catholics find thriving parish in Shelby's St. Mary

SHELBY — The history of St. Mary Church found its beginnings thanks to clergy from Belmont Abbey and later, an enterprising Catholic from the North. In 1884, Benedictines from the abbey began visiting Shelby to celebrate Mass with the few Catholic families living here.

Attempts to establish a mission and to build a church in town during the years following went without success. Finally, in 1935, another effort was underway.

The Weldon family, who had relocated to Shelby from Pennsylvania that year, went to work locating Catholic families in the area. Anne Weldon approached Benedictine Father Cuthbert Allen of St. Michael Church in Gastonia about celebrating Mass in Shelby, and thus the spiritual foundation for a mission church was laid. Father Allen's first Mass in Shelby was celebrated in the home of Anne and Arthur Weldon Aug. 11, 1935.

St. Mary Church's existence as a mission of St. Michael Church continued into 1937, at which time the parishioners saw the result of their efforts come to fruition. A new 100-seat, cut-stone church was built from the designs of Benedictine Father Michael McNerney, a renowned architect who designed hundreds of buildings during his career.

ST. MARY CHURCH

818 McGowan Road
Shelby, N.C. 28150
(704) 487-7697

Vicariate: Gastonia
Pastor: Father Eric Houseknecht
Number of Households: 290



Father Eric Houseknecht

On July 11, 1937, Benedictine Abbot Vincent Taylor of Belmont Abbey blessed the church. In October 1939, St. Mary Church attained parish status. Benedictines continued their pastorate at the church until 1944, when diocesan priests assumed responsibility for the parish, beginning with Father Walter Higgins.



PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Mary Church in Shelby was dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh in 1966.

The parish purchased its first rectory in 1946 when then-pastor Father A. C. Adler raised \$8,000. Parishioners matched the funds, and St. Mary Church had its first major expansion.

By the end of World War II, a number of Catholics had settled in Shelby, and in 1952 the parish was made up of 30 families. Industrial expansion from the north continued to bring Catholics to the region during the 1950s. To meet the needs of Catholics in the area, the parish paid particular attention to the enhancement of religious education and to evangelization.

In 1961, then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters established an Apostolic Training Center in nearby Kings Mountain to further the missionary movement at work in the Diocese of Raleigh, which encompassed all of North Carolina at the time. A church on the property was renovated and dedicated to Christ the King. With that development, Christ the King Church became a mission of St. Mary Church.

Back in Shelby, plans to expand the church facilities were underway during the early 1960s. In 1963, land was purchased on McGowan Road and the parish began construction of a multipurpose building that included a church, parish

hall, classrooms and living quarters for the pastor. Bishop Waters dedicated the building in June 1966.

Parish life continued to thrive throughout the 1970s. By 1978, the parish debts had been paid, and a house was purchased for use as a rectory in 1980. By this time, St. Mary's parish had grown to 107 families.

After years of celebrating Mass, teaching and socializing in the multipurpose building, parishioners turned their attention to constructing a more suitable church. A building campaign began in 1985, and then-Bishop John F. Donoghue dedicated the new 450-seat St. Mary Church in May 1992.

Father Carl Kaltreider served as pastor of St. Mary Church from June 1996 until October 1999, taking the reins from Msgr. William Wellein, who had spent 12 years at the church. On Oct. 15, 1999, Father Eric Houseknecht, vicar forane for the Gastonia Vicariate, assumed the pastorate of the energetic parish, comprised of more than 240 families active in the Ladies' Guild, Men's Club, youth ministry and other parish and civic outreach activities.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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| PAGE 5

SLAVES NO MORE

Victims of human trafficking tell their stories at conference

BY

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MIAMI — At a recent conference on human trafficking, victims told tales of forced labor and torture, of beatings and threats, of people who preyed on their dreams and trampled their psyches.

One spoke from behind a screen, still fearful that her former master would find her. Another revealed her face but not her current hiding place; her slave master — a woman — had threatened her children back in Mexico.

A third individual, reed thin and elegant in a pinstriped suit, stood tall — 6 feet 5 inches tall to be exact. Fearful no more, he challenged the world to free his people.

"I know how a slave

See VICTIMS, page 12

Celebrating a house of salvation

HUNDREDS GATHER
FOR DEDICATION OF
NEW ST. JAMES CHURCH

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CONCORD — Describing it as a long-awaited moment for a "thriving and growing parish," Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the new St. James Church in Concord.

The bishop concelebrated the dedication Mass with Redemptorist Father James Geiger, pastor, and a number of diocesan and Redemptorist priests Dec. 5.

"Jesus brings salvation to this house of prayer by his presence," said Bishop Jugis. "May Christ fill up our hearts, and fill out this place, with his divine presence."

Nearly 1,000 parishioners, guests and officials from the city of Concord — including Mayor Scott Padgett — gathered under a clear sky as the procession of clergy led by Knights of Colum-



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis concelebrates the dedication Mass of St. James Church in Concord Dec. 5 with Redemptorist Father James Geiger, pastor, and other diocesan and Redemptorist priests. Nearly 1,000 people attended the Mass.

See ST. JAMES, page 7

WAITING FOR JOY

Charlotte Catholic Women's Group celebrates Advent, Eucharist

*Bishop Jugis presented
with 'spiritual bouquet'*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Joyful waiting, sacrifice and dedication to the Eucharist were the themes of this year's December Mass and luncheon for the

Charlotte Catholic Women's Group (CCWG).

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass for 90 members of the CCWG at St. Gabriel Church Dec. 6. Concelebrating the Mass were Father Christopher Roux, episcopal master of ceremonies; and Father Paul Moreau and Father Peter

See GROUP, page 4



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers Communion during a Mass at St. Gabriel Church Dec. 6.

Supreme Court declines to hear appeal of same-sex marriage law

CATHOLIC LEADERS
ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR
TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Opponents of same-sex marriage said they were disappointed but not surprised that the Su-

See MARRIAGE, page 13

In Our Schools

CCHS students merit AP
Scholars; HTMS student honored
for service

| PAGES 8-9

Culture Watch

More books for Christmas
giving; Vatican film festival
on spirituality

| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives

Seeing with God's eyes;
Peace lovers to always
remember

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

MENDING SOULS



CNS PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. ROBERT HASKELL COURTESY OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Father Rick Sirianni, an Air National Guard chaplain and pastor from Gresham, Ore., assists an unidentified injured soldier during rounds at the U.S. military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, in October.

Catholic chaplain at military hospital finds work hard but rewarding

LANDSTUHL, Germany (CNS) — There was no doubt that Specialist Ronald Baker of the Arkansas Army National Guard was going to die.

All that kept the Arkansas man alive at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center was a life-support system and his wife's concern for his soul.

The 34-year-old soldier had never been baptized, and his wife needed the reassurance that the soldier would leave the world as a Christian after he had been severely wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq Oct. 7.

The woman, a Protestant, asked a Catholic priest, Father Richard Sirianni, to baptize her husband. A military chaplain who is a lieutenant colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard, Father Sirianni had been helping the comatose man's loved ones since they had arrived in Germany.

Father Sirianni, who is pastor of St. Henry Church in Gresham, Ore., baptized Ron Baker shortly before he died.

The priest's days on duty can be long, but Father Sirianni is glad to be ministering overseas. He is the only full-time priest-chaplain at this massive hospital. His active duty began Sept. 25 and will continue through Dec. 21.

"It can be exhausting. On the other

hand, it's very rewarding," said Father Sirianni, a priest for 26 years and an Air National Guard chaplain for 17 years.

Landstuhl, the largest U.S. military hospital outside the United States, receives all the wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. Its team of eight chaplains and five assistants look after patients' emotional and spiritual well-being as intently as the doctors and nurses work on their wounds.

Father Sirianni ministers to the injured and also helps visiting family members with accommodations and pastoral support. He walks them through the many details of care — and death.

"You make sure that no aspect of caring for people is overlooked," he said. During his day, he makes his rounds to visit the Catholic soldiers. A significant number of soldiers are Latino and Catholic, and there is a serious shortage of priests in the military who can minister to Catholic personnel. But Father Sirianni visits anyone in need, whether they are Catholic or not.

The priest noted that when he returns to the United States he will have a new respect for the country's young people.

"I will never chase a skateboarder away from my church again," he said.

Center presents 'Nostra Aetate' Award to Knights of Columbus

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus fraternal organization was honored Dec. 1 with one of the annual "Nostra Aetate" Awards given by the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

Presenting the award at a dinner in New York, Anthony J. Cernera, university president, praised the Knights for "outstanding leadership and commitment to promoting dialogue and understanding" and for "courageously striving to make the world a better place for the next generations."

The awards take their name from the Second Vatican Council document "Nostra Aetate," which called for an end to anti-Semitism.

Carl Anderson, supreme knight, accepted the award on behalf of his organization, and said the Knights had felt challenged to find new ways of furthering understanding, "especially since the events of

Sept. 11," a reference to the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001.

The awards were presented at a \$ fund-raising dinner attended by 200 people at Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan.

As part of his organization's more recent programs, Anderson recalled that it provided support for the "Concert of Reconciliation" held at the Vatican in January to express the common heritage of the three Abrahamic faiths — Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

The concert was held under the patronage of the pontifical councils for Christian unity and for interreligious dialogue, and funding was provided by the Knights of Columbus.

He concluded with a call for a dialogue that went beyond seeking an end to hostility between Jews and Christians to working for "a friendship that is enriched by the treasures of both of our rich traditions."

Diocesan planner

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ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Sign-language interpretation of the *Liturgy of Word* will be offered at the 10 a.m. Mass Dec. 12 at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 536-6520.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover will teach a series of classes on the *History of the Catholic Church* at St. Luke Church, 18700 Lawyers Rd. Classes will meet Fridays at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To register, call Sister Grover at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — Would you like to learn more

about your Catholic faith, but are unable to attend a class every week? *Catholic Update* meets Mondays, 5-6:15 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the New Life Center Room 102 of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a drop-in class that will cover a new topic of interest each week. Pre-registration is not necessary. Childcare is available by reservation by calling (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is available for all members of the clergy and laity in the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Any parishioner interested in the apostolate and who would like to make a firm commitment to adoration for one hour a week is welcome to join the Perpetual Adoration Society. For details, call Kathleen at (704) 366-5127 or e-mail Terri at terridugan@earthlink.com

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com or Carol Vincent at Jclvincen@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday (TGIF)*, a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Qatar conference calls for societal strengthening of parenthood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The head of the Pontifical Council for the Family said parenthood has been devalued in contemporary life and that it is in any state's best interests to enhance the parent's role in society.

Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo spoke at an international meeting on family issues in Doha, Qatar, Nov. 29-30. Representatives from many countries, religions and organizations attended the conference to discuss how to protect the traditional family structure that many see as under attack from secular forces.

"The family, a natural society, exists prior to the state, any other political organization or jurisdictional institution," the cardinal said. "Therefore, the originality and identity of the family based on marriage must be recognized by the political authorities."

"We are disturbed by the dramatic devaluation of motherhood in our societies," he said. "Motherhood is not simply a job comparable to many other worthy professions; it is much more."

The father's role, Cardinal Lopez said, "which all too often is obscured, is of great importance in the formation of the children's personality ... the father's presence in the home is an essential element of the children's upbringing."

Cardinal Lopez said "an ideology hostile to the family is spreading in some parliaments," referring to recent legislative proposals in Europe and North America allowing gay marriage or granting legal status to gay couples.

The cardinal also criticized an "exacerbated feminism that considers marriage and the family a place of slavery, and fatherhood and motherhood an unbearable burden that turns to fear."

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — The *Advent Supper-Study Series* of Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will feature Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor, speaking on the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the parish reconciliation service Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Dennis Teall-Fleming will present a two-part series on John XXIII's encyclical "Pacem in Terris" (Peace on Earth), Dec. 15 and 22, 6:45-7:30 p.m. each evening, with dinner at 6 p.m. (see <http://www.justpeace.org/docu.htm> for this encyclical). Copies of the encyclical will be available, and, as with dinner, there is no cost or pre-registration necessary. Childcare provided by some of the parish's high school youth.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — A *Christmas Musical* sponsored by Immaculate Heart of Mary School will be held Dec. 14. The show is free of charge to area senior citizens. The performance begins at 10 a.m. in the school gym at 605 Barbee Ave. Refreshments will be served following the show. This year, kindergarten through fifth grade will present "Noelle the First," and middle school students will stage a modern version of "A Christmas Carol." The show is part of the school's community outreach program. For more information, call the school at (336) 884-5212.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free "Gentle Fitness" classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fitness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low-impact aerobic workout. For more information, call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the DeSales House behind the church. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope praises continued efforts to eliminate land mines

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised countries committed to the eradication of land mines, weapons he called "the terrible scourge of modern times."

In a statement read Dec. 2 to participants at an international conference on anti-personnel mines in Nairobi, Kenya, the pope called for continued efforts to remove mines from affected countries and destroy stockpiles of the weapons.

Special attention should be given to the innocent victims of land-mine explosions, he told the conference, the first convened to review compliance with the 1999 Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty, which bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

The pope's statement was read by Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Vatican representative at the Nov. 29 - Dec. 3 conference.

Five years after going into effect, the pact has become a fundamental measure that reinforces international humanitarian rights and demonstrates "a tangible example of solidarity between nations and between

peoples," the pope said in his address.

Not only do land mines cause "slaughter and mutilation of numerous innocent victims," but their continued presence "weighs heavily on developing countries, depriving them of the agricultural land essential for their survival," the pope said.

Greater cooperation between countries affected by the weapons and those that are not and between rich and poor countries is needed, he said. Wealthy countries should make political choices and financial commitments to address the problem, showing "sincere and concrete commitment of the signatory countries."

Those countries should unite "to oppose a culture of death and to build with trust a culture of life," the pope said.

According to the sixth annual report by the International Committee to Ban Landmines released Nov. 18, while casualties due to land-mine accidents have dropped since 1999 there are still some 15,000 to 20,000 deaths every year; 86 percent of those victims are civilians and 23 percent are children. The report said there are 200 million mines stockpiled across the globe.

Familiar faces



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A painting of Mary, Jesus and Joseph sits on a windowsill at Holy Family Catholic Mission in the village of Blackwater, Ariz., part of the Gila River Indian Community located south of Phoenix. A resident painted the image with features of the local people. The feast of the Holy Family is Dec. 26.

A SAINT YOU SHOULD KNOW

John of the Cross' (1541-1591) life was a heroic effort to live up to his name "John as reformer, mystic-poet and theologian-priest. Ordained a Carmelite, John engaged in the work of reform, and experienced increasing opposition, persecution and imprisonment. While imprisoned, John began writing poetry. John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning "coming." During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This provides a background for the present. Today we can reflect on the past "track record" of God and so begin to understand what it means to us now for the sake of what is to come, in our own future and that of our world.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 12 — 1 p.m. Mass
Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

AROUND THE DIOCESE



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Board members of the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group stand with Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Father Paul Moreau and Father Peter Devereux following Mass at St. Gabriel Church Dec. 6. Pictured left to right are (front row): Aleane Kennelly, Renee O'Brien, Kelli Byrnes and Kristin Smith. Back row: Lori Carter, Mary Summa, Father Moreau, Bishop Jugis, Father Devereux, Margaret Gustafson and Molly Beckert. Not pictured: Beth Nichols, Mary Anne Gauthier, Kathy Line-Kelly and Ann Gleason.

Women's group celebrates with bishop

GROUP, from page 1

Devereux, members of the Legionaries of Christ, ministering in Atlanta.

CCWG has been associated with Legionaries of Christ priests since the group's inception in 2000. The priests visit monthly to provide catechesis and spiritual direction to the members of CCWG.

Immediately following the Mass, Mary Summa, president of the CCWG, presented Bishop Jugis with a "spiritual bouquet" of more than 80 hours of eucharistic adoration. Many members of the CCWG had spent time in adoration during the month of October for Bishop Jugis and his intentions.

In her presentation speech, Summa praised the bishop for his courage and dedication to the Eucharist through the pastoral letter, "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion," which he signed in August with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston.

"When you pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, you are overwhelmed with the love Christ has for you," said Renee O'Brien, CCWG board member. "You know that, just as the father wel-

comed the prodigal son, Christ is waiting for you to spend time with him."

During his homily, Bishop Jugis described Advent as a time of waiting, when "God stirs up our hearts and our hope for the second coming of Christ."

"Every holy Communion is a looking forward to the glory of the Lord's coming on the last day ... that is Advent," he said.

The day of the resurrection is a day for the faithful servants of Christ to wait in joyful hope, not in fear, of the coming revelation, Bishop Jugis explained.

Following the Mass, Father Devereux continued the theme of Advent as a time of waiting and reflection in a short talk he presented to members of CCWG.

"You are entering into some of the most precious days of the year," Father Devereux said. "Don't let our artificial, secular world take this away from you ... start asking Jesus for fire — warmth and light — but don't let it burn out of control."

Father Devereux told the women, most of whom are wives and mothers, that although their husbands are the spiritual heads of the households, the women are the "keepers of the hearth," providing their children with the warmth of the Christian faith.

Father Devereux also urged the women to consider what their greatest gift is, suggesting they might consider it to be their husband, children or health.

Church to host community Christmas dinner

Free event open to public, shut-ins

ALBEMARLE — A delicious, traditional Christmas dinner is in the works to bring fellowship and joy to the community.

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church is hosting the 15th Annual Community Christmas Dinner 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 25. The free event is also sponsored by Central Methodist, Christ Episcopal, First Baptist, First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Resurrection and Union Chapel AME Zion churches.

"Since 1990, local churches and volunteers throughout Stanly County have partnered together to provide one of the most unifying and rewarding events in our area, the Annual Community Christmas Dinner," said Olga Throneburg, chair of the volunteer steering committee that plans the event.

"Dozens of other people give part of their Christmas Day to help cook, serve, clean up and deliver meals to homebound persons," she said.

The event originated with a local couple, Claudia and Jeff Covington, who realized most restaurants are closed on Christmas Day. Because many single individuals and travelers had no place to share a holiday meal, the Covingtons decided to serve a Christmas dinner to anyone, who for any reason, found themselves alone on Christmas Day.

"Jesus Christ is the greatest gift," he told them "All of your gifts — husbands, children, your health — are reflections of the gift of Jesus."

Father Devereux also said Christ wants us to live with "unadulterated joy."

"Joy is discovering God within us and allowing him to take over — that's where God's will is born," he said.

God brings a lot of joy out of sacrifices, Father Devereux said.

"The most painful moments are also the most joyful," he said. "Then we are

Their church, Christ Episcopal, hosted the first dinner.

Since then, a church has hosted the event for two consecutive years, and then passed the responsibility to another participating church. A volunteer team works to serve what now numbers 900 Christmas Day meals at no charge, thanks to donations from individuals and businesses.

Other highlights include Christmas stockings for children and Christian entertainment.

"Everyone is welcome. Last year was a great success and we hope to build on that success with the continued support of individuals and businesses in the local community," said Throneburg. "I sincerely thank everyone for their contributions."

WANT TO GO?

The Annual Community Christmas Dinner will be 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 25, at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 North Second Street in Albemarle. Take-outs and home delivery can be scheduled. To make arrangements or for more information, call the church office (704) 982-2910. If you or your business wants to help financially, contact Vince Cerullo at (910) 439-1506.

one with our creator, who came down from heaven, suffered and died for us."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group, contact Mary Summa, president, at (704) 846-6127 or e-mail mpsumma@carolina.rr.com.

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GIVING BACK

Catholic Heritage Society members honored at annual event

by KEVIN E. MURRAY
editor

CHARLOTTE — Members of the Catholic Heritage Society were honored at a Mass celebrated at St. Matthew Church on Nov. 7.

Nearly 80 members of the society attended the Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis. A dinner followed.

The Catholic Heritage Society was formed in 1994 to recognize those people who have indicated that they intend to leave gifts in their wills and estate plans to a parish, school, the diocese, the foundation or other Catholic organization in the diocese.

There are currently more than 500 members of the society, but many more Catholics have remembered the entities of the Diocese of Charlotte in their estate plans without disclosing that information.

In fact, according to Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving, an estimated 6 percent of Catholics in the diocese have remembered the Catholic Church in their estate plans.

Some of those individuals have chosen to leave their gifts to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Currently, the foundation has more than \$10.3 million in assets. Most of the 115 endowments in the foundation are designated for parishes.

Contributions may be designated or undesignated gifts for a specific parish, school, foundation or organization, or to the Diocese of Charlotte in general.

"Through their gifts, members of the Catholic Heritage Society are leaving a legacy that will help meet the needs of individuals in the Diocese of Charlotte for generations to come," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. "More and more parishioners across the diocese are following their example by remembering the church in their current and future estate plans."

Kelley said individuals establishing



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers the Blood of Christ during Communion at a Mass honoring members of the Catholic Heritage Society at St. Matthew Church Nov. 7. Below: Bishop Jugis laughs with members during a dinner following the Mass.

endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship.

"Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow the church of the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

"We encourage all Catholics to consider becoming members of the Catholic Heritage Society," Rhodes said.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about planned giving or the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 or e-mail gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org.

Former janitor at Catholic university leaves school \$2.3 million

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (CNS) — An Italian immigrant who spent his retirement working as a janitor at the University of Great Falls left the Catholic school a bequest of \$2.3 million when he died.

Genesio Morlacci died Oct. 31 at the age of 102, leaving behind only extended family. But his will gave the small private university in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings the largest single gift it had ever received.

Eugene McAllister, president of the university, announced the "extraordinary gift from an extraordinary gentleman" Nov. 15.

McAllister explained that Morlacci, who was raised in Tracy, Mont., made his fortune as the owner of a dry-cleaning business in Great Falls. He lived frugally, and even after retiring from the dry cleaners Morlacci took a part-time job at the university.

"He was an excellent businessman who was willing to work 18-20 hours a day," McAllister said. Morlacci's will specified that 95 percent of his bequest be used for scholarships.

"The students who will be receiving scholarships from the Morlacci endowment will be benefiting from each of those long hours Mr. Morlacci put in the 18- to 20-hour days," McAllister said.

"Although he had roughly the equivalent of a third-grade education, he placed enormous value on education," he continued. "Mr. Morlacci's life and gift are an inspiration to us. His life is also a lesson to us in the value of work, sacrifice and belief in a greater purpose."

The University of Great Falls is a liberal arts school established in 1932 as a junior college for women. It currently has about 800 students, 80 percent of whom receive financial aid.



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Belmont Abbey College students bring Christmas to local families

Project 'Christmas at the Abbey' to make a difference

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College recently brought some Christmas cheer to those in need.

Students, faculty, staff and members of the monastery have begun "Christmas at the Abbey," a new annual program in which they "adopt" children and their families in the Gaston County area.

Inspired by Benedictine Father Chris Kirchgessner and several students and faculty members, Christmas at the Abbey began with a campus-wide tree-trimming party Dec. 4, followed by a private Christmas party for the children and their parents.

"Initially, we thought it would be great if we could bring Christmas to just one child in the area and make it special for him," said Father Kirchgessner. "But as we discussed the idea, the students felt that that wouldn't be enough. They are excited about bringing Christmas to as many families as possible."

With help from teachers in local elementary schools, the college identified several children and their families to have a very merry Christmas this

year. As many as 38 campus groups and organizations at Belmont Abbey College, including fraternities and sororities, athletic teams, clubs and first year symposium classes, purchased toys, clothing and other items.

"This project, Christmas at the Abbey, is what the Benedictine tradition and Belmont Abbey College are all about," said Father Kirchgessner. "We feel it's a great way to share our heritage and give something back to the community."

"There is also something incredible about watching a child open up a gift you've wrapped and placed under the tree — to see the joy in their faces, especially during this time of year, is a wonderful thing," he said.

WANT TO DONATE?

If you would like to donate an item or find out more about Christmas at the Abbey, contact Father Chris Kirchgessner at (704) 825-7215 or fatherchris@bac.edu.

TOP RANKING



COURTESY PHOTO

Boy Scouts from Troop 8 recently earned their Eagle ranks. Pictured (front row, from left): Chris Bodman, Brenton Vasconcellos and David Baranowski; (second row) Samson Mesele, Stephen Lingen, Ian O'Shaughnessy and Matthew Mounie.

Seven Scouts earn Eagle ranks

CHARLOTTE — Seven Boy Scouts in Troop 8 from St. Matthew Church have earned their Eagle ranks.

The Scouts were honored in a ceremony with more than 150 guests attending at St. Matthew Church Oct. 23.

David Baranowski, Chris Bodman, Stephen Lingen, Samson Mesele, Matthew Mounie, Ian O'Shaughnessy and Brenton Vasconcellos each earned a minimum of 21 badges and did a service project to earn the rank, which is the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Baranowski made improvements at the outdoor courtyard at Sunrise Assisted Living on Rea Road in Charlotte.

Bodman built fitness equipment for McMullen Greenway Park.

Lingen built a deck and benches for a park in a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood in Matthews.

Mesele led a group that built a garden at St. Matthew School.

Mounie built a gazebo at St. Bernadette Church in Linville.

O'Shaughnessy performed trail and campsite maintenance at Uwharrie National Forest.

Vasconcellos collected, wrapped and distributed gifts for disadvantaged children at the annual Christmas Day party at Good Ol' Days restaurant.

Five BAC students selected for Who's Who directory

College nominates best leaders for national honor

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has selected five outstanding students as exceptional campus leaders to be included in the 2004 edition of "Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities."

Selected for this year's edition were Sean O'Connor, Janna Ruffner, Benjamin Safranski, Emily Toy and Stefanie Whorton.

The criteria in selecting nominees include: students of junior or senior class status, evidence of scholarship ability (minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA), participation and leadership in extracurricular activities, service to the community and potential for future achievement.

Campus committees and editors of the national directory nominated the students. The students join an elite group from more than 2,300 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states and several universities overseas.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934.

Belmont Abbey College students represent more than 18 countries and 34 states and pursue undergraduate degrees in a number of liberal arts course offerings. Founded in 1876, the college is inspired by the Benedictine monastic tradition.

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FROM THE COVER

'This is the beginning of a great time for St. James Church.'

Many gather for church dedication

ST. JAMES, from page 1

bus St. James Council approached the locked church before the Mass. There, Father Geiger presented Bishop Jugis with the architectural blueprints, photo journal and keys to the church.

Bishop Jugis returned the keys to Father Geiger, who unlocked the church doors and allowed the congregation inside for the dedication Mass, during which the bishop anointed with chrism and incensed the altar and walls of the church.

"Our new church is absolutely beautiful, and I am so excited about this day," said Margaret Frye, whose mother has been a parishioner of the church for 73 years.

"A lot of work went into it," she said.

The new 800-seat church on Manor Avenue replaces the former church on Union Street, which accommodated only 200 people. The current 800-family congregation has gathered for Mass in the parish center since 1998.

In a recent letter to parishioners, Father Geiger thanked them for their generous support in the construction of the church.

"I know there is a certain sadness in leaving our Union Street church where, for almost 50 years, Catholic life in all its aspects flourished because of so many dedicated clergy and parishioners, living and deceased," said Father Geiger.

"Let us pray ... that the tradition of living our life in Christ, as was done at St. James (Church) on Gold Hill Road, on Union Street and now here, will continue to make us a community of faith, hope and love," he said.

The first St. James Church was built and dedicated Aug. 1, 1869, and designated a parish in 1947. A fire destroyed that church in 1954, and Mass was celebrated in a variety of locations — including a community center and a Protestant church — until a new church was dedicated in 1955.

In a double ceremony July 31, 1994, then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the former parish center and helped commemorate the church's 125th anniversary.

As the parish continued to grow, its members began looking in 2000 for property to build a new church. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in November 2003. In addition to a larger church, a new parish center and an office building with classrooms were also constructed on the property.

"It's been many years in the making, but it turned out far beyond my expectations," said Dennis Durand, a parishioner and member of the Knights of Columbus St. James Council.

"It will be very beneficial to the parish and the community," he said.

"This is the beginning of a great time for St. James Church," said Father Geiger.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Redemptorist Father James Geiger, pastor, presents Bishop Peter J. Jugis with blueprints, a photo album and keys to the church before the dedication Mass of St. James Church in Concord Dec. 5. Below: Father Dan Carboy and Father John Smyth, former pastors, incense the church during the Mass.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Deacon Dan Carl lights the church's candles during the dedication Mass at St. James Church in Concord Dec. 5.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more on the history of St. James Church, read the Parish Profile on page 16.

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Academic achievements



COURTESY PHOTO

The winners of the Academic Games Fall Tournament display their trophies at Our Lady of the Assumption School Nov. 11.

Twenty-two students from St. Mark School in Huntersville and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School and Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte gathered for the annual tournament in which students compete in three areas: Propaganda, Presidents and Equations. First and second place awards were given to the students with the highest accumulated points in each area.

Pictured are (from left): Zachary Lowry, Victoria Malynczak and Kacie Watson from Our Lady of the Assumption and A.J. Mills from Holy Trinity. Watson and Mills won first and second place, respectively, in Propaganda; Mills and Malynczak won first and second place, respectively, in Presidents; and Watson and Lowry won first and second place, respectively, in Equations.

Netting success



COURTESY PHOTO

The U12 soccer team at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte finished their season as 6 and 1, winning both games of their Oct. 30 tournament in overtime. Pictured are (back row, from left) Parvis Shahdad, head coach; Ian Hampson; T.J. Wicky; Matthew Immel; Tanner James; Hank LaFlore; Amanda Gaffey; Matthew Norton; Preston Shahdad; and Tony Gaffey, assistant coach; (front row) Stephen Magyor; Stephen Valentino; Clay Gaffey; Sean Higgins; and Edward Brennan.

GOOD WORKS

Holy Trinity student honored for food collection

CHARLOTTE — Erika Pascarella, 14, an eighth-grader at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, has been recognized by the N.C. Commission of Volunteerism and Community Service for organizing a neighborhood food collection last Christmas.

Erika was awarded for collecting more than 200 canned food items for needy families in Cabarrus County. She received the award at Glenwood Baptist Church in Marion Nov. 8.

Last Christmas season, Erika was inspired by a local newspaper article about Jim Murphy of Concord who, with the help of volunteers and donations, has fed needy and shut-in people on Christmas Day for more than 30 years.

Erika created and distributed flyers around her neighborhood asking for donations of canned food. She collected and delivered the donations to Murphy, allowing him to serve more than 9,000 meals Christmas Day.

Murphy was so impressed with her efforts that he nominated Erika for the North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

The statewide volunteer recognition program, established in 1979, is an important part of the history and tradition of volunteerism and community service in North Carolina. Since the program's



Erika Pascarella

inception, more than 15,000 North Carolinians have received the award.

"Volunteers are the driving force behind programs and organizations that assist thousands of North Carolinians every day," said Gov. Michael Easley, who announced the awards in early November.

"They lend a helping hand to our children, adults, seniors and at-risk and underserved populations, and give back so much to our communities," he said. "This award honors and thanks our volunteers for their invaluable service to our state."

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

HIGHER LEARNING

Nearly 50 Charlotte Catholic students named AP Scholars

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BY COLLEGE BOARD

CHARLOTTE — Forty-nine students at Charlotte Catholic High School have become AP scholars.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit and advanced placement for successful performances on the AP exams.

Students took the exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on a student's performance on AP exams.

Approximately 17 percent of the more than 1 million high school students in almost 15,000 schools worldwide who took the AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

At Charlotte Catholic, students Michael Florack and Alex Queen qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning a grade of four or higher on a five-point scale on all AP exams taken, and grades of four or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Ten Charlotte Catholic students qualified for the AP Scholar with Dis-

inction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of three or higher on five or more of these exams.

These students were Joseph Cashman, Michael Florack, Patrick Herford, Sarah Knish, Patrick Kopfle, Ashley Mason, Marie Pierman, Alex Queen, Lara Stocker and Daniel Yarbrough.

Another 10 Charlotte Catholic students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more of these exams.

These students were Brian Becker, Richard Bernard, Keith Fitschen, Troy Francis, James Gaiser, Amanda Griffin, Robert Gurdian, Laura Hanson, Brian Kossler and Daniel Ternes.

Twenty-nine students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP examinations, with grades of three or higher.

These AP Scholars were Catherine Andresen, Christopher Barnobi, Patrick Binetti, Eric Chow, Brittany Danahey, Laura Dickson, Stephen Farrelly, Jimmy Gil, Adam Goddard, Michael Hutson, Matthew Lail, Amanda Lamoureux, Paul Lascara, Lydia Makande, Mary McAfee, Kathleen McMahon, Samson Mesele, Nhan Nguyen, Stephen Norris, Elizabeth Osborn, Brittany Pirko, Alison Schwartz, Laura Scobey, Geoffrey Sholler, Kristen Strauss, Christina Torres, Christina Valeri, Andrea Verney and Allison Wentz.

Conductors extraordinaire



COURTESY PHOTO

Col. Frank Grzch, conductor of the U.S. Air Force Concert Band, and Dr. Stanley Michalski, coordinator of Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools' instrumental music program, take the stage at Charlotte Catholic High School Oct. 17. The concert band and the Singing Sergeants, a 23-voice chorus, performed a free concert at the school as part of an annual tour.

Michalski was invited to conduct the band during the performance, which was sponsored by the MACS Education Foundation and the school's band parents association.

The concert band has represented the United States as "America's International Musical Ambassadors" in 55 countries on five continents during 12 international goodwill tours.

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Culture Watch

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Books suitable for Christmas gift-giving — part II

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The following children's books are suitable for Christmas giving.

"The Black Regiment of the American Revolution," by Linda Crotta Brennan, illustrated by Cheryl Kirl Noll.

Moon Mountain took a decent story — the tale of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment — added colorful illustrations, maps, reproductions of original documents and interesting fact boxes to make a book that will fascinate young readers interested in history.

Brennan tells the story of the Black Regiment's battles throughout the American Revolution and — at the end — the impact the regiment had on slavery in several American states, primarily in New England.

Noll's illustrations bring the tale to life, giving a human face to harsh conditions and battles. The Rhode Island Historical Society allowed reproduction of some original documents as illustrations, and maps and timelines add to the book's appeal.

The back of the book includes a glossary, places to visit and Web sites and books for readers to learn more.

This book is suitable for reading aloud or for older elementary students reading on their own. Ages 7-12.

"Mississippi Morning," by Ruth Vander Zee, illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

In this story from Mississippi in the 1930s, a young boy loses his innocent view of life, friendship and family when he discovers the existence of the Ku Klux Klan — and that his father, whom he was always proud of, is a member. Cooper's large, earth-tone illustrations speak of a struggling time and add depth to the book.

Vander Zee tells the powerful tale from a young boy's view in a loving way, but because of the subject matter adults might want to read through this book with children. Ages 9-12.

"Why Epossumondas Has no Hair on His Tail," by Coleen Salley, illustrated by Janet Stevens.

Epossumondas wonders why his tail is not thick, furry, fluffy or bushy like the tails of his friends, so Mama tells him about how his great-great grandpa got himself in trouble with Bear and lost all the fluff. Salley's book is full of action verbs and colorful adjectives that make this especially good as a read-aloud tale.

Stevens' illustrations of the persimmon-loving Papapossam, instigating Hare and aggravated Bear help make this book a winner. Ages 5 and up.

"Miss Malarkey's Field Trip," by Judy Finchler and Kevin O'Malley, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley.

Miss Malarkey's class goes on a field trip to the science museum, and thus begins a series of adventures and misadventures. This clever story tells a student's view of how the trip went for the teacher and has something everyone can relate to, including a chaperoning parent who will not get off the cell phone.

O'Malley's watercolor and pencil illustrations, complete with conversation bubbles, add humor to a story that works well for reading aloud or as a fairly easy read. Ages 5-8.

"Everywhere Babies," by Susan Meyers, illustrated by Marla Frazee.

This highly acclaimed picture book, originally published in 2001, has been republished in a small cardboard book format that is toddler-friendly.

Toddlers will delight in Meyers' rhyming descriptions, and Frazee's humorous, multicultural illustrations make this a winner for those reading as well as those being read to.

Many pages have three or four illustrations — although some bright, colorful illustrations span two pages — and the story lends itself to toddlers' attention to detail and fascination with babies. Toddlers will always be picking up this book — and no one has to worry about ripped pages. Ages 6 months-3 years.

'Doctor Zhivago' to air on PBS

NEW YORK (CNS) — Boris Pasternak's revered tale of revolution and romance gets a dusting off for a two-part public television production of "Doctor Zhivago," being rebroadcast Sunday, Dec. 19, 9-11 p.m. EST and concluding Sunday, Dec. 26, at the same time on PBS (check local listings).

During the opening two hours it is difficult not to compare this version unfavorably to David Lean's classic 1965 movie starring Omar Sharif and Julie

Christie as the star-crossed lovers caught in the turmoil of the Russian Revolution.

While the production values are exceptional, numerous bedroom scenes and brief nudity, not to mention the shootings and suicides, make this better suited to adult viewers.

Pare is a former director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 19, 2004

Dec. 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 7:10-14
- Psalm 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6
- 2) Romans 1:1-7
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Advent a time to regain contact with people to venerate

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

One sweltering afternoon in September, I trudged across the mall parking lot, eager to be embraced in the chill of cold air that waited within. Finally out of the heat, I heard Bing Crosby crooning Christmas carols.

"How can this be?" I asked myself.

Nevertheless, Bob Hope's right-hand man's voice was back in the sound system, inviting us to journey once again down a snowy memory lane.

By the time Halloween has arrived, Christmas preparation has spread from the malls to the neighborhoods. Children who go out to trick or treat are confronted with twinkling Christmas lights in some neighborhoods. Moreover, by sundown Thanksgiving Day the "Christmas season" has moved into overdrive.

On this fourth and last Sunday of Advent, our spiritual preparation for

celebrating the birth of Jesus some 2,000 years ago and our anticipation of his coming again in glory can be overwhelmed by the world around us. In the midst of trying to beat the crowd, we may lose contact with the actual people whose lives we venerate.

Perhaps one of the persons we tend to overlook is Joseph, betrothed to Mary of Nazareth. In works of art and literature, Joseph seems to stand in the quiet shadows like a giant oak offering protection and strength without our seeing its complexity and true goodness.

Matthew's Gospel reveals to us a man who must have felt as if his world were crashing around him when he received the news that the woman he loved was pregnant with someone else's child. In Joseph's world, his options ranged from having Mary publicly stoned to quietly divorcing her. Joseph's choice revealed to us a man of character, caught between the demands of the law and his concern for Mary's reputation. Matthew tells us that Joseph was "unwilling to expose (Mary) to shame."

However, God reveals another option beyond Joseph's wildest imagining in a dream. Joseph, a man who listened to his dreams, recognized the voice of God. Later when he welcomed Mary into his home, Joseph was saying "yes" to God and "yes" to the child in Mary's womb.

This remarkable man would love and guide the child who would grow up to save his people from their sins — the child who would be the ultimate sign that God is, indeed, with us.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 18

Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 35:1-6, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; Monday (St. Lucy), Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17, Matthew 21:23-27; Tuesday (St. John of the Cross), Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; Wednesday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25, Luke 7:19-23; Thursday (Advent Weekday), Isaiah 54:1-10, Luke 7:24-30; Friday (Late Advent Weekday), Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; Saturday (Late Advent Weekday), Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 25

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; Monday (Late Advent Weekday), Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; Tuesday (St. Peter Canisius), Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday), 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56; Thursday (Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; Friday (Late Advent Weekday), 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; Saturday (Christmas Day), Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18.

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—Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte

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Cinematic spirit

Vatican film festival fosters debate about spirituality

BY SARAH DELANEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Representatives from the Vatican, the film world and academia met Dec. 1-2 to debate cinematic visions of people, their creations and their spirituality.

The Vatican's eighth International Festival of Spiritual Cinema was to explore people's relationship with the technology they have created. The theme was "Man-Machine Hybridization, Identity and Conscience in Post-Modern Cinema."

Fifteen films — from "I, Robot" to "Men in Black" to "2001: A Space Odyssey" — will be shown at a Rome movie theater Dec. 14-19.

In opening remarks of the debate Dec. 1, Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said that cinema "has effectively represented the anxieties and fears tied to a future in which man must face the consequences of a hybridization with the machine that has been pushed to the extreme and that he himself has put into motion."

But what do "Alien" and "The Matrix" have to do with spiritual cinema?

Archbishop Foley said that "eternal doubts about artificial intelligence and sentiments, technology and respect for universal values" are represented in many films that force people to ask themselves difficult ethical questions.

In a news conference Nov. 29 to introduce the festival, Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said the films and their futuristic subjects raised troubling questions that the church seeks to address in cultural contexts like the festival.

"The machine appears to be the robotic annulment of the spiritual di-

mension," Cardinal Poupard said. "In reality, today's man cannot separate himself from the fruit of his intelligence and creativity, from his art and technique, from his engineering and literature, from his reason and artifice," he said.

"Can these machines develop autonomously, evolve and replicate man? Or will they remain a multitude of different types of robotic intelligence, but without the freedom and responsibility of man?" he asked. "Are these queries for a distant future, sources for science fiction and laboratory research, or are they already present in the imagery of our memories?"

Cardinal Poupard said the church "seeks traces of the voice of the Spirit in contemporary cinematic productions, even when they seem distant from our horizons."

Archbishop Foley said at the news conference that the increasing use of technology offers "undeniable advantages, but with some dangerous effects."

He asked, "Are we trying to humanize machines or to transform man into something inhuman?"

The debate and festival address the danger that increasing technology poses to people's dignity and relationship with God, he said.

"We absolutely cannot neglect the principle of respect for the human person and his need for spirituality," Archbishop Foley said.

It is up to people to decide what to do with the machines they have made, he said.

The festival offers "a moment to reflect and look into the future," he added.

Some of the other films to be shown are "Forbidden Planet" by Fred M. Wilcox, Stephen Spielberg's "Minority Report" and Frank Oz's "The Perfect Woman."

'Blade' franchise should be staked



CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE

Jessica Biel stars as "Abigail" in "Blade: Trinity," a violent fantasy action sequel about a brooding half-mortal, half-vampire slayer (Wesley Snipes), who must join forces with a team of vampire-hunters and battle an army of bloodsuckers bent on resurrecting Dracula to spawn a vampiric master race. This bloodfest dishes out the same tedious gore and cheesy dialogue as the first two installments. Excessive violence, much profanity and rough language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Catholics shouldn't get 'Closer' to this film

BY HARRY FORBES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Director Mike Nichols — no stranger to charting corrosive relationships on screen — returns to that unpleasant territory in "Closer," a faithful, if streamlined, adaptation of Patrick Marber's West End and Broadway stage award-winner.

Focusing on the romantic interrelationships of four amoral people in contemporary London — Anna, a photographer (Julia Roberts); Dan, a newspaper obituary writer (Jude Law); Alice, a former stripper, now waitress and free spirit (Natalie Portman); and Larry, a dermatologist (Clive Owen) — the film deals with their sexual attraction in almost purely verbal terms, but the sexually charged dialogue is quite graphic, and, as on stage, shocking in its bluntness, and will be an immediate turn-off to Catholic moviegoers.

The film begins with Dan and Alice forming an immediate physical attraction as they approach each other at a London intersection. In her distraction, Alice is hit by a car, and Dan takes her to the hospital.

Time passes. Dan and Alice are now a couple. Dan is having his portrait done by Anna in her photo studio. There's an instant chemistry between the two, though Anna is distressed to learn that Dan is already attached, and so, she admits, is she.

She puts an end to the possible relationship, and Dan mischievously goes on an Internet chat room, posing as Anna and setting her up for a sexual encounter with Larry at the aquarium, which Anna regularly frequents.

The joke is on Dan, as Anna actually falls for the doctor, and the two start a relationship.

At the gallery opening of Anna's photography show, Anna and Dan, now in serious relationships with Larry and Alice, respectively, meet again and commence an affair. And so it goes.

None of the sexual couplings are ever shown, but the script — including that Internet chat between the two men — goes about as far as any mainstream film has ever done in its verbal frankness.

The performances are all predictably fine, with the men having a slight edge over the women, though their characters are only sporadically likable.

Though the characters' emotions are identifiably real, their actions are morally reprehensible.

And the film doesn't supply much in the way of a redemptive ending, except for these characters' lives being plainly empty, which may be Marber's point, though he has asserted he wanted to leave the moral judgments to the audience.

And for all the know-how that went into the production, and the proficient performances, "Closer" is not without dull stretches. Also, the time-shifting chronology is, at times, confusing.

In spite of its distinguished pedigree and glossy production, you may find yourself not wanting to get too close to "Closer."

Due to much gratuitously rough and sexually explicit language, a suggestive striptease, partial nudity, free-wheeling attitude towards sex, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Human trafficking victims share stories

VICTIMS, from page 1

looks, how you feel, because I was a slave for 10 years. My people are still there," said Francis Bok, 25. "What is good, your freedom, if you don't use it to help other people live in freedom?"

Bok, a native of southern Sudan, had been enslaved at age 7 to an Arab family from northern Sudan. Forced to herd goats, endure daily beatings, sleep with the animals and eat the gruel they were fed, he finally escaped.

He found refuge first in Egypt and then in the United States through the intervention of the United Nations.

"For 10 years, I used to lie awake at night and ask, who is going to come and free me? Nobody came. But I was strong and I never lost hope," Bok told a rapt audience of diplomats, journalists, students, community activists, law enforcement officials and human rights lawyers gathered at St. Thomas University in Miami Nov. 12.

He was among nearly a dozen speakers who denounced the modern slave trade during a daylong conference broadcast worldwide via the Internet.

Titled "Invisible Chains: Breaking the Ties of Trafficking in Humans," the conference featured Jim Nicholson, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican; John Miller, director of the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; and Sister Eugenia Bonetti, a Consolata Missionary who heads anti-trafficking activities for the Union of Major Superiors of Italy.

Sister Bonetti directs the work of 250 women religious who rescue and shelter African and East European women who have been smuggled into Italy and forced to work as prostitutes.

Global epidemic

"This is the emerging human rights issue of the 21st century," said Miller, who was appointed to the newly created office to combat human trafficking just this year by President George W. Bush.

While the practice is known by the



CNS PHOTO BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO, FLORIDA CATHOLIC

Consolata Missionary Sister Eugenia Bonetti oversees 250 religious throughout Italy who work to rescue modern-day slaves.

euphemism "trafficking in persons," Miller said, "it's important to call it by its rightful name — slavery."

He added that the slave trade "extends to every country in the world, including the United States."

The U.S. government estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Nearly 18,000 are trafficked into the United States.

Nicholson said both the Vatican and the Bush administration view the modern slave trade as "one of the greatest affronts to dignity that the world has ever seen."

Pope John Paul II has spoken out against it, and the Holy See and the United States co-hosted the first international conference on the issue. Two others have followed.

The Vatican also has spread the word about trafficking to its 174 nuncios around the world, who in turn are making local bishops' conferences aware of the problem, Nicholson said.

According to the U.S. government, 80 percent of today's slaves are women, and 70 percent of them are forced to work in the commercial sex industry. The rest are forced to work in sweatshops and on farms, as household servants and sexual

slaves, even as child warriors.

"As many as one-third (of those trafficked) and maybe more are children," said Miller.

Criminal intent

Trafficking in people is the third most profitable criminal enterprise worldwide, after arms and drug dealing, said Nicholson. "It's being done by organized crime."

Terry Coonan, executive director of Florida State University's Center for Advancement of Human Rights, said the rise in human trafficking coincided with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

That historic event opened up borders and made freedom more possible for millions, but at the same time it made people susceptible to scams that lured them into servitude instead of helping them find freedom, he noted.

Coonan added that, unlike the slave trade of the 17th century, "psychological coercion is the hallmark of the new slave trade here in the United States."

Modern-day slaves come willingly, either for jobs or for love, he said. Many of the traffickers pose as boyfriends, promising women marriage — and a green card to make them legal residents

— once they cross the border.

"They do know they're entering the U.S. illegally. What they don't know is that it's slavery or slavlike conditions that await them," said Coonan.

Fighting evil

Until recently, prosecution of human traffickers was nearly impossible. Victims of trafficking, already fearful for their own lives or the lives of their families back home, had no incentive to come forward because they were subject to deportation.

But, under provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003, victims "are now allowed to remain here legally," Coonan said, and psychological coercion is recognized under the law.

"We have not lost one slavery case, not one," said Doug Molloy, chief assistant for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Fort Myers, Fla.

As communities become more aware of trafficking and with the new laws passed by Congress, "we have a chance here to cripple this industry," he said. "America and slavery should never be in the same sentence."

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Immaculata Catholic School located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina is accepting applications for the position of Elementary School Principal starting with the 2005/06 academic year. Immaculata is a Pre-K to Grade 8 parish school with an enrollment of 180 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Demonstrators for and against same-sex marriage converge outside the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston March 29.

Supreme Court declines appeal of same-sex marriage law

MARRIAGE, from page 1

preme Court declined Nov. 29 to hear an appeal of the ruling that permitted same-sex marriages in Massachusetts.

The court without comment passed on the chance to review the 2003 ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that legalized same-sex marriage in that state.

The challenge to the law came from the Liberty Counsel on behalf of Robert Largess, vice president of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, and 11 state legislators.

C.J. Doyle, the league's executive director, said the court's decision not to take the case "underscores the need for Supreme Court justices committed to a strict construction of the Constitution."

In a statement, he said the success of November ballot initiatives in 11 states to ban same-sex marriage shows "that this issue must be removed from the jurisdiction of an unaccountable judiciary and placed squarely in the hands of the people, where it belongs."

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, said the court's decision not to take the case was disappointing but not a surprise.

The conference explained that the appeal was based on the argument that the state court's ruling violated a clause in the federal Constitution that requires states to maintain "a republican form of government." By ruling that the Massachusetts law defining marriage as between a man and a woman was unconstitutional, the state court usurped the Legislature's power to regulate marriage, it said in a statement.

Lower federal courts found that the constitutional argument did not apply to "separation of powers violations" and concluded that "the people of Massachusetts still retained the power to overturn" the Supreme Judicial Court with a constitutional amendment, the conference said.

"Appeals based on this clause are difficult to win," it added.

About 4,000 same-sex couples have been legally married in Massachusetts since May. The ceremonies began a few days after the federal high court turned down a request for an emergency injunction to prevent them. Massachusetts is the only U.S. state where same-sex marriages are legal.

Massachusetts legislators earlier this year approved an amendment to the state Constitution restricting marriage to heterosexual couples but allowing same-sex couples the legal benefits of civil unions. The amendment must be approved again by the 2005-06 Legislature before it goes to a popular vote.

The earliest it could appear on the state ballot is November 2006.

The U.S. Supreme Court often declines to intervene in an issue in which state governments and lower courts still are developing laws and rulings. In addition to the 11 states with ballot measures in November, another two dozen states are considering laws on same-sex marriage.

Lambda Legal, a national organization for gay rights, has filed lawsuits in California, New Jersey, New York and Washington state on behalf of same-sex couples who want to marry.

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference encouraged support for an amendment to reverse the state Supreme Judicial Court and give traditional marriage "the strongest protection possible."

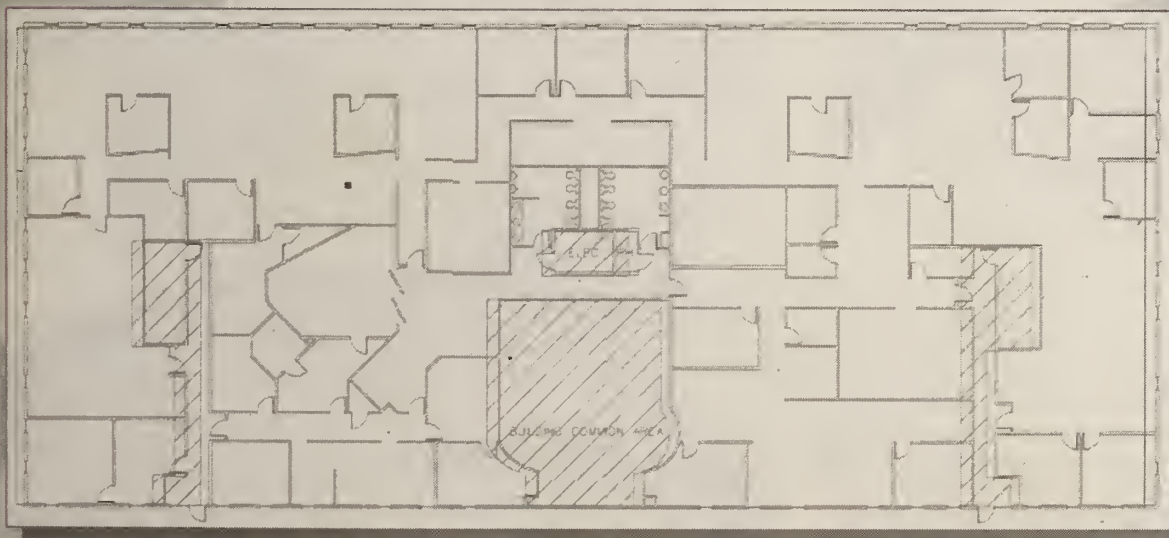
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The spirituality of solidarity

ADVOCACY AND INVOLVEMENT
SHOULD BE A COMMUNAL
RESPONSE

Photos of women draped in bright sarongs leading children through a sandy barren landscape capture the plight of the refugees in the Darfur region in western Sudan. Stories of rape and pillage told to aid workers through translators underscore the trauma and despair of a farming people forced from their land.

About 100,000 civilians have been killed in Darfur during the last two years with 400 villages destroyed and 2 million people forced to flee their homes. Neighboring Chad hosts 200,000 refugees and the human situation on both sides of the border appears desperate. Leading United Nations officials term this "the world's worst humanitarian crisis."

For people of faith, the principle of solidarity calls us to respond to the sufferings of our neighbors wherever they live in the world. But Catholics concerned about Gospel justice sense a spiritual overload. Where to begin? The sheer distance and complexity of Darfur, plus the numbers and continued violence of the tragedy, offer few realistic solutions.

Yet, from this seemingly impossible situation, believers must develop a spirituality of solidarity to move beyond their paralysis. The spirituality that makes solidarity real joins personal awareness with a communal response: Oh, God, save your people — and how can we help?

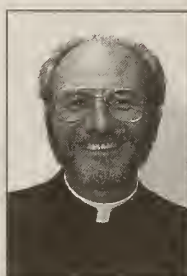
First, the spirituality of solidarity engages the situation by asking what is happening.

Basically, Sudan's central government has armed and supported a militia, the Janjeweeds, to fight on its side against rebel insurgents in Darfur. The Janjeweeds, a colloquialism translated as "horsemen with guns" or "evil horsemen," represents more of a mob of armed thugs than a militia, rampaging through villages and towns killing men and boys and raping women. Drawn mainly from pastoral peoples of different tribes, the Janjeweeds are attacking the farmers in the Darfur region to gain access to land and water for their herds.

Another element: the government, located in the northern part of the country, wants to maintain strict Is-

Economy of Faith

GLENMARY
FATHER JOHN
S. RAUSCH



lamic control over all inhabitants of Sudan, which includes large numbers of Christians in the south where huge oil reserves are located.

Sending a sufficient number of U.N. peacekeepers appears the most expedient solution to the problem, but currently a few dozen African Union monitors are only documenting abuses. Nations, it is said, have interests, not principles.

Even the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in its 1991 statement, "A Call to Solidarity with Africa," said, "Sadly, race and geographical proximity as well as economic and political factors, it seems, can disproportionately shape our nation's foreign policy." They warn the United States against writing off the world's poorest continent.

While believers advocate for a political end to the war, they can support those who are part of the solution. In Darfur, no fewer than 25 non-governmental organizations assist refugees and the victims of war. Among others, these include Catholic Relief Services, Care International, Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam and World Vision.

Amnesty International plays a key role in monitoring human rights abuses, especially with charges of genocide against the Janjeweeds and their use of rape as a weapon of war. More than resolutions and sanctions, A.I. advocates for strong U.S. leadership in three areas — "diplomacy, an arms embargo and a substantial contribution to the resettlement of the displaced." Non-governmental organizations on the ground offer a perspective beyond politics — usually that of women and children.

The spirituality of solidarity transforms what first appears to be an overwhelming human tragedy into a ministry of connectedness. By study, advocacy and involvement believers become a community of compassion while they invoke the healing power of God through prayer.

Father Rausch is a syndicated columnist in Berea, Ky.

Pope: Christians must live in harmony with church social teachings

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: Due to an early publishing schedule this week, we are unable to print the story from the pope's weekly general audience.

VATICAN CITY — Christians are called to live in harmony with the church's social teachings despite fears they might not be up to the task, said Pope John Paul II.

Catholic social doctrine is "a demanding standard of justice and action," but that should not lead the faithful to feel its principles are "too great and noble" to ever be actualized in this world, he said.

The pope's message came in an address he made Dec. 4 in the Vatican to participants attending the "Centesimus Annus" Foundation's annual congress.

The pope said that since its establishment more than 10 years ago the foundation's aim has been to offer concrete support to the pope and the Holy See while making the church's teachings on social issues more widely known.

The pope remarked it was "very suitable" that the foundation was focusing this year's meeting on the "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church."

The compendium, released Oct. 25

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, explains church social teachings, which in turn provide guidelines for living a moral, Christian life.

The pope said it occasionally seems that church social doctrine is more talked about than properly understood.

"Therefore, it's rather important to aim to introduce church social teaching in a precise, motivated, complete way," the pope said.

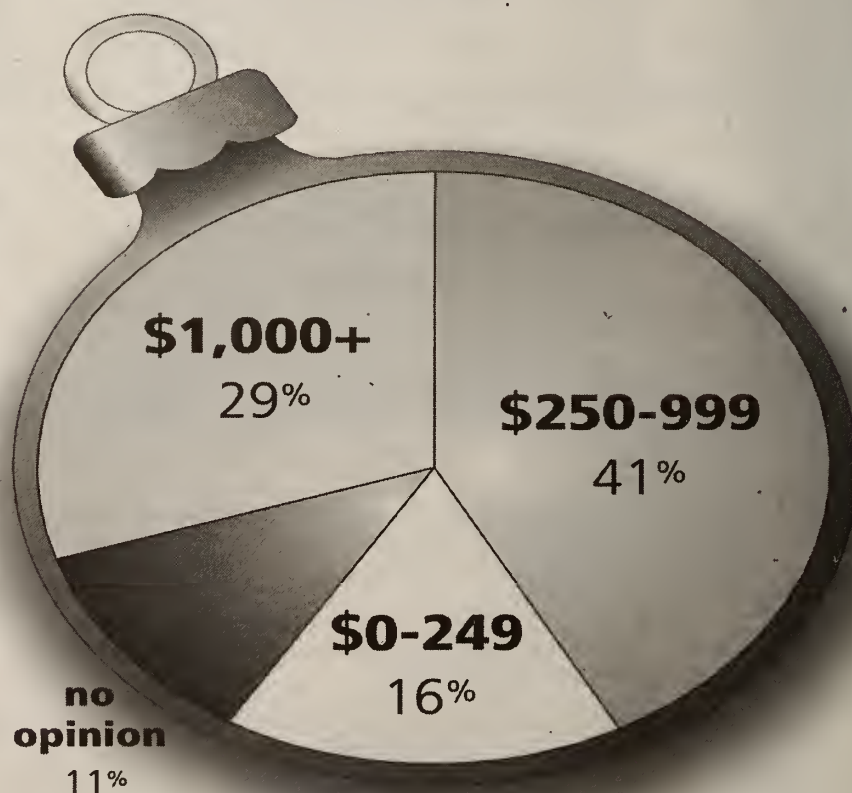
Catholic doctrine should be taught to be "a stimulating point of reference" for what one's social, professional and civic duties are in upholding the life and dignity of humankind, the pope said.

Catholic social doctrine also must be presented "as an element defining the spirituality of the lay faithful," he said.

"Lay Christians who are open to the grace of God are the living instruments" necessary to bring those values that foster solidarity and harmony among peoples to the fore, said the pope.

HOLIDAY SPENDING

Most U.S. consumers say they will spend less than \$1,000 on Christmas gifts this year. For comparison, the average household donates more than \$1,500 annually.



Source: Gallup

© 2004 CNS Graphics

Peace lovers we should never forget

Christian duty to end conflict, hate and war

Peace should be on all our minds in these days of war, when modern weapons — the ones being used and the ones that could be used — have the potential to destroy the world.

I found it notable that Pope John Paul II recently beatified Charles I, the monarch of Austria deposed toward the end of World War I. He called him “a man of peace,” and while history may not see him exactly that way, I was pleased. I know about that war, having written with my late son Peter a book on “America at War, World War I.”

Charles inherited the monarchy at age 29 as war raged and set out to save the monarchy by searching for peace in foreign affairs. In 1917, he made a secret peace overture to the Allies (the “enemy”), which was discovered by the German-led Central Powers; he was vilified for this peace effort. Exiled to Madeira, and very poor, he died of pneumonia at age 35.

Bless the pope for remembering this man, who tried at least to seek peace.

I hope that now the pope will beatify the greatest man of peace in that time of horrendous war, Pope Benedict XV. He tried to make the world see how the warring countries had created

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



a “horrendous bloodbath which dishonors Europe” and had turned the world into “a hospital and a cemetery.” He tried to make the countries see that they were carrying out the “darkest tragedy of human hatred and human madness” with this “useless massacre.”

While the countries continued the killing, Pope Benedict poured out love. He established an “Office for Prisoners” in the Vatican, making it possible for prisoners of war and soldiers at the front on all sides as far as possible to maintain contact with their families; he gave money to set up welfare works for war victims in all countries, getting them food, warm clothing and medical care; he insisted on help worldwide to ease the pain and deprivations endured by the

innumerable widows and orphaned children suffering hunger and homelessness.

Later, he found a way to have the Vatican raise 5 million lire to help those starving from the Russian famine. In his efforts to relieve the suffering on all sides during this war, he spent some 82 million lire, an enormous amount of money back then, and was criticized for nearly bankrupting the Vatican.

But Pope Benedict, emphasizing Christian love, proclaimed that “it is the duty of every person to run to help another human being who is in danger of death” — and I, personally, have never heard a better definition of peace!

Jesus’ way holds the key to survival. He spoke continuously of compassion, mercy, forgiveness and overcoming hate with love. The world talks of vengeance and retaliation. Everything Jesus was about could be said to be a contradiction to the world.

Jesus never backed down, even to the death. He had to show us how to make the world right. This can only be done when we, the children of his Father, end conflict, hate, vengeance and war, and become loving people who seek forgiveness and peace.

What gifts can we give?

Seeing with God’s eyes can make a difference

Life Issues Forum

THERESA NOTARE
GUEST COLUMNIST



Advent is the time the Catholic Church asks us to prepare ourselves anew for God’s greatest gift to us — our salvation made real in the birth of his son Jesus. There is a flip side to Advent that we often forget — it also presents us with an invitation to reflect upon what gifts we can give to so generous a God.

What gifts can we give? Jesus provides a hint: “Love the Lord your God with your whole heart and soul” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” Most of us find the “love your neighbor” part difficult. And that’s understandable.

It is difficult to love people we have little in common with. In our world, the stranger is often to be feared. And forget about the people we can’t see who lie hidden in the womb. So what are we to do?

Two simple suggestions: behave as if you do love your neighbor and practice little ascetisms.

If you want to love your neighbor, act that way. It doesn’t matter if you “feel it.” The heart will eventually follow. Call your sister who you have been fighting with. Take Aunt Josie to the doctor even if you’d rather stay home. Baby-sit for the couple who live in the apartment above you. Volunteer at a pregnancy crisis center.

Above all, practice “putting on the eyes of God.” View your neighbor as God does. This means that when watching the news see both the person who was robbed and the mugger as God would.

This exercise does not excuse the mugger of his sin, but it can help us see his real value before God. It can also stoke the fires of our hearts to desire his repentance. A prayer offered with the desire for the person’s well-being delights the Lord God.

Likewise, if you have trouble summoning up concern for babies in the womb, see them as God sees them. God creates each person to do something only he or she can do. In the bustle of your routine, stop and think about who that person in the womb is and will be. Question the legality of abortion. Talk to others about the worth of all people. Pray for the well-being of “womb people.”

Finally, practice little ascetisms. The ancient practice of “giving something up,” or more specifically “fasting,” needs



to be integrated into our lives. Even fasting only one day a week “tunes up” the soul. When we give something up for a higher purpose, we can see our sins more easily. We can see the talents God gave us to spend in the world.

We also can see what God wants of us. Our innate compassion is more readily available. Our desire to help stirs. Our heart-felt prayers for our neighbors become a natural response.

This Advent, give gifts to God. Put on the “eyes of the Lord.” Include a bit of fasting with your prayers. If we all strive to do this, we may see peace in the world. We will also make beautiful gifts for our heavenly Father.

Theresa Notare is the assistant director of the Diocesan Development Program for the U.S. bishops’ Natural Family Planning, Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Grown men don’t resort to violence

Coming of Age

KASE JOHNSTUN
CNS COLUMNIST



Children fight because they get called names. Children fly off the handle because someone throws something at them. Children throw tantrums when things don’t go their way. Children don’t yet know how to control their temper when they get angry.

Children act like children. Sometime in later childhood, they learn to control these violent feelings.

I sat with my parents that recent night as ESPN replayed the fight between the Indiana Pacers and the Detroit Pistons. I admit, at first, I wanted to see it. They showed a quick highlight, and I became intrigued, calling in everyone from other rooms to come watch.

There is something about fights that make people gather around, that intrigues everyone. Fights gather crowds. Fights form circles of spectators.

“Hey, get in here. You might miss it. They are going to show a huge fight on TV,” I yelled throughout my apartment.

Everyone came. Everyone watched. They, of course, could not and would not miss the fight as it appeared everywhere over a two-week span on magazine covers, radio shows, talk shows, highlights and press conferences.

On display were the actions of children. Flying fists and swarming mobs lit up our homes to begin the holiday season. These men acted no older than the average 8-year-old.

A fan threw a cup (wrong) and a player ran to the stands to get revenge, to release his temper, to show everyone he wouldn’t take it. He lost his temper. Another player ran into the fans, and the cycle continued.

Men should not fight because they get called names, fly off the handle because someone throws a soda on them or throw tantrums when things don’t go their way.

Men should know how to control their temper when they get angry.

It’s unacceptable for men to resort to violence because a cup of soda hits them, setting a bad example for millions of kids watching at home.

The nation already has commented on this fight. Everyone has expressed an opinion, some berating the players, some actually defending them and some, already conditioned to such violence, scoffing at the controversy.

I cannot add anything to the global discussion of professional athletes and their responsibility as role models, nor can I give any new insight into the fight that happened in Detroit. Although tempted, I will not review the history of the professional athlete and fighting, nor will I quote players in the past as they tell the nation that parents should be role models, not athletes.

New St. James Church serves as spiritual home to Concord Catholics

CONCORD — In the 1800s, Cabarrus County Catholics, like many others in the state, had to travel elsewhere for Mass.

Joseph Barnhardt, a convert to Catholicism, dreamed of having a church built in Concord, but died in 1858 before he could help plan it. But when Barnhardt's father-in-law died in 1869, he deeded a picturesque plot of land for the future church.

With the help of the Concord-area Catholics, the first St. James Church was built and dedicated on Aug. 1, 1869. Father Joseph J. O'Connell, who would later write a book about Catholicism in the South, became the first pastor of the parish.

In the 1950s, a parishioner named J.B. Williams attempted to buy a piece of property inside the town for the church. When non-Catholic residents discovered his intention for it, he was immediately outbid. A short time later, another property was auctioned and he purchased the property and turned it over to the church. This became the property on which the former church stands.

The first pastors of the church were Benedictine priests from Belmont Abbey and other areas of the diocese. In 1944, Bishop Vincent Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh (which covered all of North Carolina) asked Redemptorist fathers to begin priestly ministry work at St. Joseph Church, built in 1945 in nearby Kannapolis. In 1974, the Redemptorist fathers came to St. James Church and remain today.

In 1954, Charlie Williams, a St. James parishioner, started an annual barbecue to raise money for the



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The new St. James Church in Concord was dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis on Dec. 5, 2004. The 800-seat church replaces the former 200-seat church.

church. The event, open to the entire community, became the largest

fundraising project for the church.

In August 1969, St. Joseph Church became a mission of St. James Church. Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme, a current parochial vicar of St. James in Concord, now serves as St. Joseph's pastor.

In a double celebration July 31, 1994, then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a new 12,000-square-foot parish center — complete with 11 classrooms, a large central area and a kitchen — and helped commemorate the church's 125th anniversary. The parish was presented with a proclamation signed by Concord Mayor George Liles declaring that date as "St. James Catholic Church anniversary day."

In 1993, Redemptorist Father Daniel Carboy, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, became pastor of both St. James and St. Joseph. In 1994, Father Carboy started an endowment for the church with a \$4,000 donation from a parishioner. By 1997, the endowment, used to generate funds for the church, had grown to \$30,000.

In 1995, St. James Church hosted its first "Jimmy Murphy's Christmas Dinner," an event to bring people of the growing parish and community together on Christmas Day.

Redemptorist Father James Geiger

ST. JAMES CHURCH

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Pastor: Redemptorist Father
James Geiger

Parochial Vicar: Redemptorist
Father Edward Gray

Deacon: Rev. Mr. J. Daniel Carl

Parish Administrator:

Redemptorist Brother Darrell Cevalasco

Number of Households: 800



Redemptorist Father James Geiger

became pastor in 2002 and helped the 800-family parish push forward with plans for a larger church. The parish celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 16, 2003, and Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated a new church with a seating capacity of 800 on Dec. 5, 2004.

A parish hall and office building with classrooms were built adjacent to the new church.



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VOLUME 14 NO 12

On the issues

USCCB rep John Carr discusses
social justice, politics

|PAGE 5

Bishop Jugis announces activities for Year of the Eucharist

CONGRESS SCHEDULED
IN CHARLOTTE FOR 2005



BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — In a letter to Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Peter J. Jugis announced that a Eucharistic Congress will take place in Charlotte Sept. 23-24, 2005.

Asking the faithful to put aside those dates to attend the congress, Bishop Jugis said, "This will be a time of celebration, adoration and catechesis centered on the mystery of the Eucharist."

The congress will include eucharistic adoration and sacred music on Friday Sept. 23. Saturday, Sept. 24, begins with a procession in which choirs, Catholic organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, and members from all 92 parishes and missions in the diocese will walk behind the Eucharist as it is carried through the streets of uptown Charlotte.

After the procession, a day of seminars, speakers and activities for adults, youths and children is planned at the Charlotte Convention Center. Programs for Hispanic and other cultures will also be presented.

The Eucharistic Congress concludes with a Mass on Saturday afternoon.

WANT MORE INFO?

Bishop Peter J. Jugis' complete letter may be found on page 14.

Portraying the Christmas spirit



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Children present a Christmas pageant re-enacting the Nativity as Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor, reads the story at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard Dec. 12. Father Del Giudice told the children, "This is the third Sunday of Advent, and, as our pageant reminds us, Jesus is coming to give us light." At a breakfast after the Mass, the children had a birthday cake for Jesus and then made Christmas tree ornaments.

For more Christmas coverage, see pages 8-9.

RELIVING THE FAITH

Hispanic parishioners celebrate heritage, history

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA — Going to Mass on a cold Dec. 9, 1531, Juan Diego passed Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. He saw a cloud and a rainbow, heard music; a woman called his name. Climbing the 130-foot hill, he saw a beautiful woman dressed as an Aztec princess,

who told him she was the Virgin Mary.

It was Mary's appearances to Juan Diego (canonized July 31, 2002) and the resulting miracles that converted 9 million Aztecs to Catholicism. Hispanic people throughout the United States and Latin America continue to celebrate that event each Dec. 12. In Mexico, people make pilgrimages to the Basilica of

Guadalupe on that day.

Churches in the Diocese of Charlotte, including Sacred Heart Church in Brevard and Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, hold lavish celebrations to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, named "Patroness of the Americas" in 1946.

Some 60 Hispanic people gathered at Sacred Heart

See LADY, page 7



PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Uriel Arivzu, dressed as St. Juan Diego, stands with sister, Ulahni, and mother, Malena, during an Our Lady of Guadalupe fiesta at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville Dec. 12.

In Our Schools

Retiring OLG principal honored
for 35 years of service

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Culture Watch

Vatican's new saints calendar;
African-American liturgy pioneer dies

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Cougars pounce on victory

CCHS captures state football
championship

|PAGE 16

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

ILLUMINATING WASHINGTON



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush assist Clara Pitts, left, and Nicole Mastracchio, members of St. Timothy School Brownie troop 5179 from Chantilly, Va., as they light the national Christmas tree near the White House Dec. 2.

Brownies from Virginia Catholic school light national Christmas tree

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nicole Mastracchio and Clara Pitts, third-graders at St. Timothy School in Chantilly, Va., excitedly flipped the switch Dec. 2 and 450 sets of lights, donated by General Electric Co., illuminated the national Christmas tree as thousands of people standing on the Ellipse watched.

Nicole and Clara are two of St. Timothy School's third-grade Brownies who collected lip balm, chewing gum, candy, tissues, sunscreen and handmade cards to send to troops overseas. The eight girls of Brownie Troop No. 5179 collected more than 200 pounds of supplies and assembled nearly 1,000 care packages.

With the help of a law firm, the packages were shipped to the troops in Iraq in time to be received before the holidays.

The Brownies wrote to President George W. Bush to tell him about their Christmas project and invite him to the school, but instead they were invited to the White House Ellipse to help the president and first lady Laura Bush light the national Christmas tree.

"Across our country, citizens are supporting our people in uniform with their prayers and with many acts of

kindness," the president said at the "Pageant of Peace" lighting ceremony. "And I thank the Brownies for reminding the good people of our military how much they mean to America."

Although the other six Brownies were not able to sit onstage, they and their parents had seats close to the stage and enjoyed dancing onstage and posing for photos after the ceremony.

All eight girls wore their plaid St. Timothy uniforms and Brownie vests and were topped with matching fuzzy black berets. They had all signed a St. Timothy School baseball hat that they gave to President Bush.

Clara said her favorite part was turning the switch that lit the tree. About 15,000 colored lights illuminate the 42-foot Colorado blue spruce that has been decorated as the national Christmas tree for more than 20 years.

Although they didn't get to spend much time with the president, Clara said Laura Bush talked to her during the ceremony, asking if she was having fun and pointing out interesting things happening on stage.

"All the other people out there (in the audience) didn't get to do much," Clara said. "But we got to light the Christmas tree."

Consideration for family central to development efforts, says nuncio

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican nuncio to the United Nations said Dec. 6 that international concern for development should lead to support for the family unit as indispensable to achieving security and development in any nation.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore said the family as "the stable and lasting union of a man and a woman" not only ensures the "replacement of the generations" but enables a child to become a "creative constructor of society."

The nuncio made his statement to a session of the U.N. General Assembly marking the 10th anniversary of the 1994 International Year of the Family.

Archbishop Migliore was among those who took the initiative last year to ensure that the anniversary observance would not be left up to individual governments, but marked by

the United Nations as a body through activities including a session of the General Assembly.

"As the first place of formation of human capital, the family appears truly indispensable to development," he said.

Archbishop Migliore called for a governmental family policy as something separate and distinct, rather than just one aspect of some more comprehensive social policy.

He said a family policy should prevent measures that penalize couples who wish to have children and provide "just compensation" of education costs linked and "a true recognition of domestic work."

It should also include "a long-term action, based on criteria of justice and of efficiency," he said, "because the family is an investment for tomorrow."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnnet.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Cursillo Christmas Party will be Dec. 19, 4-9 p.m. at the home of Dan and Lynne Hines, 4601 Pineland Pl. Please bring an appetizer to share.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate a Polish-language Mass Dec. 26 in the Daily Mass Chapel. Reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

HUNTERSVILLE — A Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more information, call Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965 is

being considered for the fall of 2006. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for caregivers of a family member with memory loss meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — Fun and Fitness after 50 classes are being offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This program of gentle exercise promotes joint flexibility and muscle strength. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call Maureen Benfield at (704) 362-5047, ext. 221.

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Iraqi foreign minister says government will promote religious freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari thanked Pope John Paul II for the help he always has given the Iraqi people, and he pledged that the country's new government would promote full religious freedom.

The foreign minister met Pope John Paul II Dec. 13, exactly one year after U.S. troops captured Saddam Hussein and less than a week after an Armenian Catholic Church and a Chaldean Catholic bishop's residence were damaged in an attack by armed men.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, said Zebari assured the pope of "the commitment of his government to promote religious freedom and, particularly, the defense of the Christian communities."

"The painful plague of terrorism" was condemned during the meetings, Navarro-Valls said.

In addition to Dec. 7 attacks by terrorists on Catholic targets, five Christian churches in Baghdad were struck in mid-October, and five Catholic churches were the targets of bombings in August.

Also Dec. 13, Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency, published an interview with Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk.

The archbishop said he and other religious leaders have asked their faithful to focus on prayers for peace and security at Christmas, rather than hostilities and parties.

With the ongoing mourning and suffering, he said, it did not seem right to celebrate Christmas with the customary parties.

Also, he said, most Iraqi Muslims could not have big feasts during November of Ramadan, the month of fasting, so giving up the Christmas parties is also an act of solidarity.

Pope says Christians must help create world open to diverse cultures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must help create an open and harmonious world where diverse cultures can thrive side by side, said Pope John Paul II.

The faithful must "foster, with active commitment, prospects of hope that will herald the dawn of a more open and supportive society," the pope said Dec. 9 in his annual message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees.

The annual event is held on different days in different countries. In the United States, National Migration Week will be celebrated Jan. 2-8.

While the Christian community must still "listen for the cry of help that comes from a multitude of migrants and refugees," the faithful must reach out with sincere respect and curiosity in learning about the culture and beliefs of others, said the pope.

He said the goal of "intercultural integration" entails firsthand contact with the newcomers, which "leads to discovering their 'secret,' or rather, the values and beliefs of their culture."

Being open and understanding of other cultures can result, in the long run, in a pluralistic society that reflects "the multifaceted gifts of God to human beings," he said.

Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao,

president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, said immigrants often suffer from gross social inequalities.

"It is necessary to work to remove the obstacles to social equality" for immigrants because an intercultural society "necessitates equal standing among peoples," he said.

But while the values of equality and liberty are to be embraced, the faithful must not loosen their grasp of their Christian identity and mission of evangelization, he added.

Divine Word Father Michael Blume, the council's undersecretary, said the United States was the nation hosting the largest number of immigrants in the world. The United States has some 35 million people who come from 40 different nations.

Part of making immigrants feel comfortable in expressing and developing their own cultural identity lies in recognizing "the beneficial contribution" that the immigrant makes to society "with his and her culture and talents," said Father Blume.

Intercultural integration results in "reciprocal enrichment, and society becomes a kaleidoscope, where every culture has its place in one design made all the more beautiful" for its variety, he said.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A chartered bus will leave from Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., in Belmont at 7 a.m. Jan. 15 and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., in Charlotte at 7:30 a.m. to go to the Rally and March for Life in Raleigh. For more information, contact Jan Rogers (704) 825-9600.

BELMONT — All middle and high school youths are welcome to join Dennis Teall-Fleming for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday, 5-6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College for an hour of prayer and devotion. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly Catholic Scripture Study. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The Widows Lunch Bunch, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at

St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Our Lady Rosary Makers of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a Charismatic and Healing Mass the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — Court St. Mary, Mother of God of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will meet in the fellowship hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., Jan. 8, 2005 after the 9 a.m. Mass. Mass intentions for that date will be for the intentions of members of the Court. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting. For more information call Sandy Beauchemin at (828) 586-1136 or the church office at (828) 586-9496.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Look, but don't eat



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pastry chef Ugo Mignone prepares a Nativity scene made entirely of chocolate in a cake workshop in Naples, Italy, Nov. 26. Some 20 pastry chefs have been working around the clock to create the world's largest chocolate Nativity scene.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 25 — 12 a.m. Christmas
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 25 — 11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Jan. 1 — 11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Jan. 2 — 11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

NOTICE TO READERS

Due to Christmas, *The Catholic News & Herald* will not publish Dec. 24. We wish our readers a very Merry Christmas.

Many heritages

Parishioners celebrate diversity at inaugural event

BY VERONICA ANTHONY

SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

NORTH WILKESBORO — Parishioners of St. John Baptist de la Salle Church celebrated their inaugural Heritage Day Nov. 28.

The multicultural event was held after the Sunday Spanish-language Mass. Parishioners were invited to bring foods from their countries of origin to the celebration, which featured Mexican dishes, German kielbasa and kraut, Oriental slaw, Italian baked rigatoni, Guatemalan tamales and Pakistani saweean.

"People did a wonderful job, and the event was a great success," said Mary Sorel, parish faith formation di-

rector, who organized the event with the parish Hispanic Leadership Team.

Other activities included games, musical chairs, sack races and live music provided by the Luz Christo Band, a family music group from Lenoir. Children also broke open two piñatas and collected the candy.

Many parishioners considered the Heritage Day a great success in bringing together parishioners of different ethnic backgrounds. The next Heritage Day is already scheduled for Nov. 27, 2005.

Veronica Anthony is a parishioner of St. John Baptist de la Salle Church.

Sharing food and faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners enjoy at Thanksgiving meal hosted by Father John Pagel, pastor, at St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville Nov. 25. The parish enjoyed good food and camaraderie.

Standing for a good cause



COURTESY PHOTO

Paul Butler (left), publicity director for the Knights of Columbus St. Mark Council 12654, and his family, parishioners of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, assist in the Knights' Tootsie Roll Donation Drive outside a Huntersville supermarket Nov. 27. The drive is phase three of four in the council's 2004 Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) campaign, which runs Sept. 1-Dec. 31.

More than 160 volunteers — Knights, confirmation candidates, Boy and Girl Scouts and other parishioners — took turns standing in all weather conditions for 106 hours primarily during Thanksgiving week, giving away Tootsie Rolls and accepting donations in an effort to help people with mental retardation.

Operation LAMB is a 30-year-old state-wide program, with all 16 councils in North Carolina participating at various levels. In three decades, the councils have raised more than \$140,000.

The Knights are accepting donations, which are tax-deductible, from individuals and businesses through Dec. 31. For more information, visit www.kofcncstmark.org.

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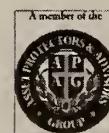
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Taking stands on the issues

John Carr discusses social teaching, politics

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — For the last decade, John Carr has served as director of the Department of Social Development and World Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He assists the bishops in sharing and applying Catholic social teaching, advocating on the moral dimensions of key domestic and international issues, and building the Catholic community's capacity to act on its social mission.

Carr spoke during a Just Second Fridays gathering at St. Peter Church in Charlotte Dec. 10. Just Second Fridays' speakers are arranged through the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

Carr also spoke with *The Catholic News & Herald* about the role of Catholic social teaching.

CN&H: How does the Department of Social Development and World Peace come up with the topics that it chooses to present?

CARR: The most important thing to know about the bishops' conference is that it is the bishops' conference. They set the priorities and policies.

We serve two committees, one on domestic policy and one on international policy. They will meet in mid-December and decide what policies will continue to guide our work.

Any statement that the bishops wish to make has to go to an administrative committee of 60 bishops and ultimately the full body of bishops.

CN&H: What sort of role do the bishops want these statements to play?

CARR: Our work is a work of faith, not politics. The bishops lead a community of faith, not an interest group. What the bishops' conference brings to the dialogue is a set of moral principles on human life and dignity as well as broad experience in serving the "least among us" at home and around the world.

The bishops bring a moral voice to what is very often a partisan discussion. In many ways, we don't fit the political categories of right and left, Democrat or Republican. We're not politically correct. For example, there are very few groups in Washington that stand up for the life of the unborn and are trying to restrict the death penalty.

CN&H: From talk radio to cable television to an endless stream of the written word, there is a cacophony of discourse in the United States. How effective are these statements from the bishops?

CARR: In many ways, Catholic teaching and the position of the bishops' conference are counter-cultural. The church doesn't decide where it stands based on the polls or the focus groups. We're not free to abandon the unborn because they may not be politically correct or to forget about immigrants be-

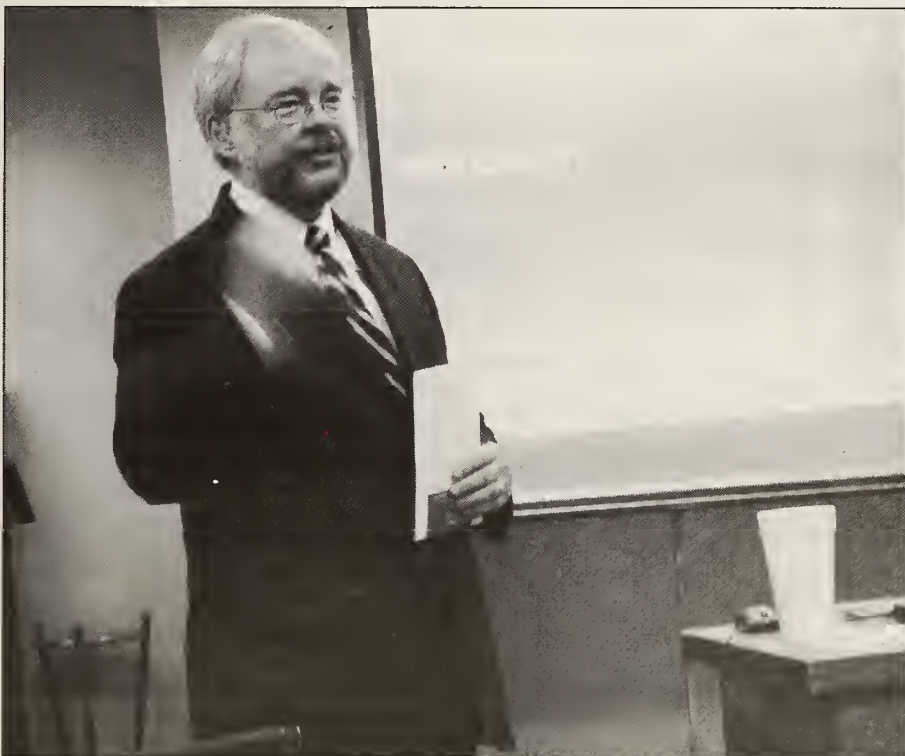


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

John Carr, director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace, speaks about solidarity, one of the topics he covered at the Just Second Fridays gathering at St. Peter Church in Charlotte Dec. 10.

cause they don't vote.

The way the bishops make a difference is by being persistent and consistent. For example, the partial birth abortion ban was passed after 10 years of work.

CN&H: In an essay about the presidential campaign, you said, "There's no magic message or quick strategy." To what were you referring?

CARR: To be candid, the "least among us" were missing from the campaign. Neither candidate really talked about them much. So, the bishops have to inform, educate and persuade people and leaders that we ought to focus on the needs of the weak, not the wishes of the strong, on the search for the common good, instead of the narrow demands of the powerful interests.

It is our faith, the Gospel and the Eucharist that sustains us in these difficult tasks.

CN&H: During the summer, several bishops, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, released statements that restricted politicians who support abortion from receiv-

ing Communion. Do you have any reflection on the notion that the bishops are becoming partisans because of their dedication to the whole issue of abortion?

CARR: Some people in the media and some partisans misunderstood the role of bishops in public life. Bishops were acting as pastors and teachers, not political partisans. Some people called these bishops partisan, and others (bishops) who took a different course were called cowards.

The bishops I know conscientiously tried to meet their responsibilities as pastors and teachers in a very polarized political climate and all of them are striving to be faithful to the Gospel of Life and Catholic social teaching.

CN&H: Is it a good thing for the social mission of the church when the bishops take a stand in a polarized political climate?

CARR: Yes. I spend a lot of time moving around the country, talking to priests and parishioners and I have found people wrestling with more thought and urgency than I've ever experienced over what it meant to be a Catholic and an American, a believer and a voter.

This is a good thing for our church and our nation.

You are invited to attend

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Please join us for this educational workshop on the call to welcome refugees in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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CSS
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Diocese of Charlotte

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- * The Church's Global and Local Response
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IN OUR SCHOOLS

With love and gratitude

Principal honored with retirement reception, Mass

GREENSBORO — Hundreds of children and adults from Our Lady of Grace School and parish gathered to bid farewell to a dear friend and educator.

Roberta Hutchcraft, who recently retired as principal of Our Lady of Grace School, was honored with a reception Dec. 5 for her 20 years of service to the school and 35 years of service to the Diocese of Charlotte.

Many former students and their parents returned for the occasion. Teachers, staff members and parents prepared and served food, and decorated the school gymnasium for the reception.



COURTESY PHOTO

First-grader Kristen McCain watches as Roberta Hutchcraft, principal of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, prepares to cut a cake at a reception in Hutchcraft's honor Dec. 5. Hutchcraft is retiring this month after 20 years of service to the school and 35 years of service to the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, opened the celebration with prayers and invited those in attendance to extend their hands over Hutchcraft as he offered a blessing.

Seventh-grader Keirnan Campbell and his mother, Alicia, performed on the flute and cello during the reception, followed by Richard Valitutto, a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, on the piano.

Those in attendance signed a guest book. One student wrote, "Thank you for everything you have meant to me. You will be in my heart forever and ever."

Father Andrew Latsko, chaplain for Pennybyrn at Maryfield retirement community, celebrated the school-wide Mass dedicated to Hutchcraft on her last day of work, Dec. 15.

"It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Roberta," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools. "She is a person who cares about her students and her faculty and staff."

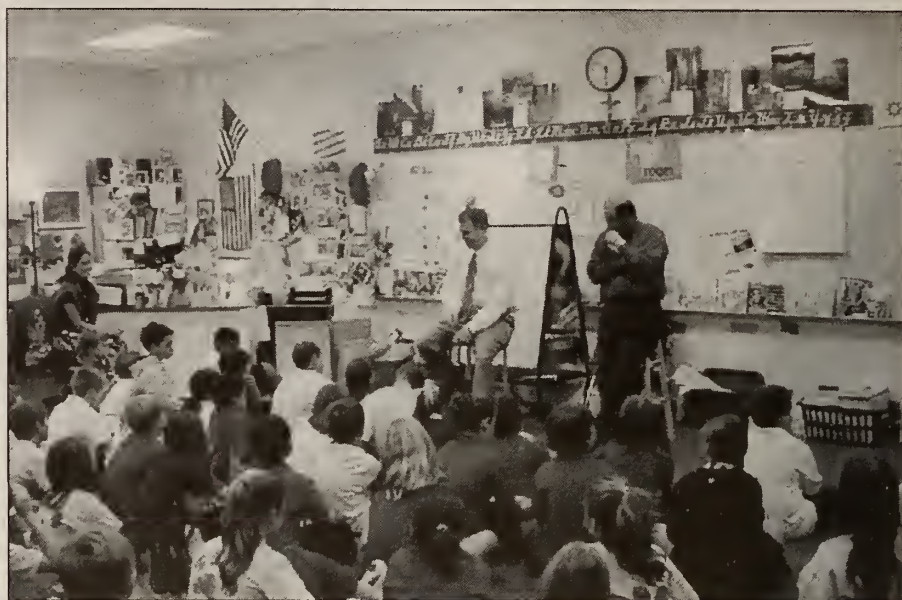
"She will be missed by our school office staff and me. The Diocese of Charlotte has been blessed to have had her service for over 30 years," said Cherry. "While we envy her early retirement, we wish her much happiness and success in her restful years ahead."

"Our prayers are with Ms. Hutchcraft as she begins this new chapter of her life," said Shirley Kinslaw, assistant to the principal. "Along with her go the love and heartfelt gratitude of her Our Lady of Grace School family."

Kinslaw will serve at the interim principal until a replacement is named.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

IN THE SPIRIT



COURTESY PHOTO

N.C. Representative Doug Vinson and former Mecklenburg County Commissioner Dan Ramirez take questions from fourth-graders at St. Matthew School in Charlotte Oct. 25.

Student research inspires school-wide election on 'kid-friendly issues'

CHARLOTTE — Civics and public service recently came alive for Catholic school students during an hour-long chat with politicians.

Dan Ramirez, a then-Mecklenburg County commissioner, and Doug Vinson, newly-elected N.C. House representative to District 105, took part in an hour-long discussion about their experiences as public servants at St. Matthew School Oct. 25.

As part of their curriculum, students in Jacqui Marquez's and Natalie Terrio's fourth-grade classes have been studying government, civic responsibility and the election. They were excited to have Ramirez and Vinson as guests and posed a

number of questions about their work.

Inspired by the guest speakers and their research, the fourth-graders initiated a school-wide vote on "kid-friendly issues" such as Music in Before School Care, Free Nuts Day, Wear a Hat Day and Wear Your PJs to School Day.

Marquez's class created posters to raise awareness about a "vote that will count for the kids." Parent volunteers created color-coded ballot boxes in which the students could vote on Election Day, Nov. 2.

Students overwhelmingly voted for Wear Your PJs to School Day, which was celebrated Dec. 17.

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Hispanics celebrate heritage

LADY, from page 1

Church at dawn on Dec. 12 to conclude a novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"They wait until the dawn comes; they say the night is gone," said Jose Gonzalez, Sacred Heart Church's Hispanic ministry coordinator.

Prior to the 11 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Hispanic and Anglo parishioners processed around the church parking lot, accompanied by the four-piece Los Mariachis Mexicanos musical group from Gastonia, and carrying a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor, and visiting Father Oscar Gracious concelebrated. A Hispanic potluck dinner followed the Mass.

Father Gracious, of the Missionary Fraternity of Mary, is in the Asheville Vicariate Nov. 29-Dec. 21 on a break from teaching at his order's seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala. It's his third year assisting — hearing confessions, assisting pastors with Hispanic Masses, conducting marriage and church workshops and blessing houses.

Sacred Heart Church has about 30 registered Hispanic parishioners but many more come to the Hispanic Mass he celebrates on Sundays.

"I tell the Hispanic community, in this church it's Mexico during Mass," Father Del Giudice said.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the church's patron; it also has taken Our Lady of Guadalupe as its patroness.

"She's the patroness of the Americas and of oppressed peoples," Father Del

Giudice explained. "As a parish, we're trying to grow together. People move here from all over the world."

In Hendersonville, Immaculate Conception Church's 750 Hispanic parishioners usually fill the church for the Sunday 1 p.m. Hispanic Mass, but that nearly doubled as an estimated 1,400 people filled both pews and aisles on Dec. 12.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvias, Immaculate Conception Church's parochial vicar, concelebrated Mass after walking in the procession with a nearly life-size statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Jackson Park, three-quarters of a mile from the church.

After the statue was placed in a red-, white-, and green-balloon bedecked arch in the sanctuary, and before Mass began, dancers dressed as Aztecs performed.

During Mass, some 22 children in white formal gowns and tuxedos received their first Communion.

Following the Mass, people crowded around the statue, bringing flowers to augment the pots and vases of blossoms already there. Then everyone gathered in the nearby Immaculata School gym for a Hispanic dinner, with dancing following a re-enactment of Mary's appearances to Juan Diego, the Indian peasant who became a saint.

The day was special, said parishioner Guillermo Elias, because "Mary came to people who didn't have much."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Dancers in Aztec costumes perform before Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville as part of the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration Dec. 12. The dance represented traditional dances of indigenous Mexicans.

THE HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

It was Mary's appearances to Juan Diego (canonized July 31, 2002) and the resulting miracles that Hispanic people throughout the United States and Latin America celebrate on Dec. 12.

Passing Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City on his way to Mass on Dec. 9, 1531, Juan Diego, a peasant, heard a beautiful woman dressed as an Aztec princess call his name.

According to "The History of Our Lady of Guadalupe," (found on the Secular Franciscan History Web site) Juan climbed the hill to the woman, who told him, "Know for certain, my dearest of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God, through whom everything lives, the Lord of all things, who is Master of Heaven and Earth."

Mary told Juan to tell the bishop in Mexico City that she wanted a temple built on the hill. It took three trips and a miracle to convince Bishop Juan Zumarraga.

At the time, Aztecs were ready to fight against a "cruel, harsh" Spanish administrator. Bishop Zumarraga appealed to the Spanish king to replace the administrator. The bishop also prayed privately to Mary, asking for her help and that she send "Castilian roses, unknown in Mexico, as a sign that his desperate prayer had been heard."

After his second visit to the bishop, Juan Diego found Castilian roses and other flowers growing on frozen Tepeyac Hill. He gathered the flowers in his tilma (cape) and carried them to the bishop.

"Juan related the events of the day on Tepeyac and then opened his tilma to allow the flowers, mingled with the Castilian roses for which the

bishop had secretly prayed, to fall to the floor," the Web site says. "At the moment they looked up, the image of Our Lady appeared on the tilma."

When Juan Diego returned home, he found that his uncle, who had been ill, was well, as Mary had promised. The uncle, according to the Web site, said that Mary had told him that she wanted to be called the "Ever Virgin, Holy Mary of Guadalupe." This further astounded the bishop. Guadalupe had no meaning in Mexico. It was the name of a famous Marian shrine in Spain.

Bishop Zumarraga, a Franciscan friar, would have known the shrine well, since a Franciscan monastery had been built there to enshrine a statue of Mary holding the child Jesus.

Word of the miraculous cape spread, and 9 million Aztecs converted to Catholicism.

The tilma is preserved in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Normally, cactus-fiber capes last about 20 years, but this tilma is intact 473 years after the image appeared upon it.

Our Lady of Guadalupe was named "Patroness of the Americas" in 1946.

Compiled by Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach.

WANT MORE INFO?

For the complete story, visit "The History of Our Lady of Guadalupe" at www.geocities.com/franciscanhistory/OLOG.html.

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ANGELS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Many work to bring gifts to needy families

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office collected 557 gifts and gift certificates for its 2004 Angel Tree program.

Angel Tree planning began last summer, as coordinators from parishes and missions in the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates began working with the CSS office.

"Catholic Social Services' mission is to provide help, create hope and change lives," said Holly Carter, CSS administrative support specialist, who coordinated the program.

"You will also find parents who will use their gift cards to buy gifts for their children," Carter said. "At CSS, we just feel we need to be empowering families. The gift certificate is a way to do that."

Some donors like to shop for gifts.

"(Parents) would take their kids with them to shop for the gifts and the kids could help pick out the gifts and wrap them," said Jerry Bergeron, Angel Tree coordinator at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

Program guidelines stated that someone in the parish or organization

must know the person or family and their needs and could verify the situation.

Participating parishes were Holy Redeemer Church in Andrews; St. Barnabas Church in Arden; the Basilica of St. Lawrence, St. Eugene Church and St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville; St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill; St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa; and St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon.

Additional participants were the Jesuit House of Prayer in Hot Springs; St. Vincent de Paul Society in Asheville; CSS Western Regional Office's Asheville Legal Migration Assistance and Russian Refugee programs, and Lilies of the Field Food Pantry, which is housed at, but not run by, the CSS office.

Those wanting to help picked envelopes from trees at their locations, bought and wrapped gifts, and attached the Angel Tree envelopes to the packages, or put gift certificates in the envelopes.

Each family member received a \$25 gift or gift certificates to local stores. Each household also received a food certificate for a local grocery chain.

"We had excellent participation," said Bobbie Tinsley, coordinator for the basilica. "It turned out really well."



PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Luis Sosa, a Catholic Social Services client, helps unload Angel Tree gifts as Debra Braese, CSS Western Regional Office director, brings packages into the conference room.

Toy story



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

"Toys" from the Doll and Toy Shoppe come to life in Winston-Salem at St. Leo the Great School's Christmas musical, "Super Gift from Heaven," Dec. 9. Beverly Culbreath, the school's music specialist, directed the play with third-, fourth- and sixth-graders portraying toys who learn through song about what a gift is and that the greatest gift ever made was the baby Jesus.

The show also included a choral and vocal concert by students from the other grades.

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An early visit from Santa



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Michael Troy, a sophomore at Charlotte Catholic High School, helps unload a school bus filled with toys, food and household supplies outside the diocesan Pastoral Center Dec. 13. For more than 20 years, each homeroom has adopted a family and collected money to purchase items for the family. This year, 70-80 children from 20 families will receive toys, including bikes and scooters, from the students of Charlotte Catholic.





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Bravo, 'Brother Burro'

Secular Franciscans re-enact nativity in Hickory

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — The cattle were lowing and the donkeys were braying, just as they probably did in Greccio, Italy, in 1223 when St. Francis of Assisi organized the first re-enactment of the birth of Christ.

Denny Schell, who played St. Francis in the fifth annual Crib at Greccio re-enactment in Hickory Dec. 5, had his reading of the Our Father prayer interrupted by a donkey braying nearby. Staying in character, he responded, "Well said, Brother Burro! Well said."

Schell has played the role of St. Francis for all five years that the Hickory secular Franciscan group has sponsored the re-enactment at the Catholic Conference Center. Most of the other parts were played by youths and parishioners from St. Joseph Church in Newton.

Each year, the Brother Francis Fraternity includes different stories from the life of St. Francis, as well as the nativity scene. This year's program included a visit that St. Francis made to an Egyptian sultan in an attempt to convert him to Christianity. It also featured a scene in which St. Francis discussed his idea of perfect joy — being shunned because of his faith — with Brother Leo, a follower of his.

During the nativity re-enactment, Schell recited the account of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, and also read the Our Father with comments according to St. Francis.

John Martin, a local veterinarian, organizes the play and writes the script each year. He also gathers the animals for the event, which this year included a cow, llama, sheep, goats, donkeys and ponies.

Ruth Thoni, minister of the group,



PHOTOS BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Above: A boy dressed as a villager greets a donkey during the Crib at Greccio re-enactment at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Dec. 5. Below: "St. Francis" confers with the "pope."

said it was her late husband Herman, who wanted to include live animals in the re-enactment.

"It was his dream to have a live nativity with real people and animals," she said. "John Martin took up the cause. He has enlarged the scope of the project each year by adding different stories from the life of St. Francis."

Some musicians and members of St. Joseph Church participating in the re-enactment were Danny Aberle as Brother Leo, Tracy Schell as Sir John of Velita, Gerry Burke as the pope, John Robinson as Joseph, Maria Schell as Mary, Colin Barrett as the Egyptian sultan and 7-month-old Maia Dunmore as the baby Jesus.





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Culture Watch

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Vatican publishes bigger, more accurate calendar of saints

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Three years after finishing the massive project of updating and correcting the book-length calendar of Catholic saints, the Vatican has published an even bigger, more accurate version.

The "Martyrologium Romanum" ("Roman Martyrology") was presented Dec. 4 during a conference on holiness and the complicated task of separating fact from legend when dealing with martyrs and saints who lived and died thousands of years ago and whose lives gave rise to fervent devotion and, perhaps, fanciful stories.

Like the 2001 edition, the newest volume is available only in Latin; however, officials of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said Italian, French and German translations are under way.

The martyrology — with its 6,658 individual names and an additional 6,881 unnamed martyred "companions" — is organized as a calendar; it lists the saints and blesseds whose feast is celebrated each day and provides a small biography of each.

The 844-page martyrology is considered a liturgical book, not a catalogue or history, because it forms the basis for determining which saint is remembered at Mass each day.

The Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero* conducted a study of the names in the volume's index.

The most common first name for a saint or blessed, it reported Dec. 5, is John with more than 330 entries. Maria or Mary is second with more than 250 entries.

The top five is rounded out with Peter, Joseph and Francis.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said the revised martyrology includes 117 individuals who were not in the 2001 edition: 66 of those were beatified by Pope John Paul between the time the last volume went to press and April 2004, the deadline for the current volume.

The other 51 new names were those added after research proved that they, too, had authorized feast days.

New saints canonized by Pope John Paul during the period did not have to

be added to the book, since they already were listed as blessed. Now, though, it points out they are saints.

Revising the martyrology was complicated, said a statement from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The Vatican did not consolidate the process for declaring saints until the late 1500s, instituting procedures — strengthened over the years — to ensure the church had firm facts about the identity and lives of the individuals canonized.

Still, the congregation said, "the Roman Martyrology does not aim to be a complete list of all the saints of the church. The presence of a saint within it simply means there is certainty that devotion approved by the church exists."

"On the other hand, the absence of a name either denotes the lack of an officially authorized devotion or that, in the presence of reasonable doubts (about the person's identity), it did not seem opportune to propose the person for the devotion of the universal church," the statement said.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the growing number of individuals beatified and canonized is part of the Catholic Church's pastoral obligation to remind every Christian that they are called to holiness.

"The church would be aiming way too low if it did not propose as the goal of every Christian the radicalism of the Sermon on the Mount," he said.

Cardinal Saraiva Martins said Pope John Paul has beatified 1,345 individuals and has proclaimed 483 new saints.

Many of them, he said, "are common Christians who, in their concrete situations, lived the Gospel fully. They are not geniuses, but normal women and men who, in imitating Christ, lived their lives heroically."

The cardinal offered Blessed Peter Friedhofen as an example. The 41-year-old, beatified in 1985, "was a chimneysweep ... On the tapestries that hang in St. Peter's Square (during the ceremonies), never before was there a blessed chimneysweep. It took John Paul II for that."

Il Messaggero also credited Pope John Paul with increasing the percentage of women among those recognized as holy by the church.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 26, 2004

Dec. 26, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
- 2) Colossians 3:12-21
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

FACING CHALLENGES WITH GOD'S SUPPORT

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The summer before my senior year of high school, my father announced that his company was moving him to the headquarters office in New York.

Wow, Dad, way to go! I shared his and Mom's excitement, even though I assumed I'd be staying in Chalmette, La., where I'd attended my first 11 years of school. I'd simply stay that last year with my friend Christine so I could graduate there.

"Whatever gave you that idea?" they asked, as surprised by my assumption as I was by their question. "Of course, you will move with the family."

I thought: "Of course?"

I went. I didn't whine or beg or pitch a fit or even ask again to stay because, as they said, "Of course ..."

What happened during that next

year, although not dramatic, would define the person I am. It was my first experience of stepping out of my comfort zone, figuratively stripped of my identity (which I'd worked so hard on those last four years) and thrown into an unknown culture.

For me it was a year of unimagined personal growth born of new perspectives, new friends, new opportunities, new courage and, "of course," the family.

As I ventured out they encouraged me; as I sought new friends they provided security; as I considered new possibilities they nurtured me. Throughout a time of testing, my family held me in a safe embrace and allayed my fears, enabling me to grow.

The same was true for Dad in his new position, Mom as she entered a new community, my brother in junior high and even my sister who joined us when her husband was sent to Vietnam for military duty.

We went out and faced new challenges, but always came home to the security of the family.

The Holy Family is so like our God: supporting us, giving us courage, comforting and healing us when we fail or get hurt, forgiving us when we turn away — and always waiting with arms open to us.

In this weekend's Gospel, Joseph faces many concerns, unknowns and even threats to his family. But he doesn't go off on his own to solve his problems or send his wife and child away. They must go together, "of course," and God's will is fulfilled.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 25

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (St. Peter Canisius)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56; **Thursday (Malachi)**, 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Saturday (Christmas Day)**, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1

Sunday (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph), Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23; **Monday (St. John)**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8; **Tuesday (The Holy Innocents)**, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Wednesday (St. Thomas Becket)**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Thursday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40; **Friday**, 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Saturday (Mary, Mother of God)**, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21.

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Father Clarence Rivers, African-American liturgy pioneer, dead at 73

Priest remembered for profound musical, spiritual contributions

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CINCINNATI — Father Clarence J. Rivers, a pioneer African-American liturgist and musician, died unexpectedly Nov. 21 at his home in Cincinnati. He was 73.

He was buried Nov. 27 at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Cincinnati following a funeral Mass celebrated by Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains.

The first African-American to be ordained in the Cincinnati Archdiocese, Father Rivers "was an iconic figure for the black Catholic community throughout the country," Archbishop Pilarczyk said.

"He was a member of the presbyterate that few of us will ever forget," the archbishop said. "He made a significant contribution to black Catholic liturgy."

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta said: "Father Clarence Rivers was a musical and cultural genius who provided great pride for African-American Catholics by composing music for the Catholic liturgy that clearly and proudly reflected the cultural gifts of black people in our country."

Bishop Gregory, who recently completed his term as the first African-American president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Father Rivers' music "brought the church closer to African-Americans while at the same time enriching the Catholic Church with a spiritual vibrancy and artistic expression that crossed all racial barriers."

"The church in the United States has lost a pioneer musician, liturgist and cultural treasure," he said.

Father Rivers was the author of several books, including "Soulful Worship" and "The Spirit in Worship," and wrote numerous liturgical compositions and countless articles, and delivered many lectures and presentations on liturgy and liturgical music.

He deliberately misspelled the title of "Soulful Worship" to call attention to the meaning of "soulful."

He first came to national attention in 1963, during the Second Vatican Council, with the recording of "An American Mass Program." It was a series of compositions blending Gregorian chant with the melodic patterns and rhythmic traditions of Negro spirituals that he had developed to promote more active participation in the liturgy at St. Joseph Parish in Cincinnati, where he was then a 32-year-old assistant pastor.

"An American Mass Program" received wide critical acclaim and was heralded as the start of a revolution in American Catholic liturgical music. It was used in parishes across the country and received a gold medal from the Catholic Art Association in 1966.

Clarence Joseph Rufus Rivers Jr. was born in Selma, Ala., on Sept. 9,



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CATHOLIC TELEGRAPH

Father Clarence J. Rivers, a pioneer African-American liturgist and musician, died unexpectedly Nov. 21 at his home in Cincinnati. He was 73.

1931. His family wasn't Catholic, but when they moved to Cincinnati his parents enrolled him in the fourth grade at St. Ann School. Eventually the entire family became Catholic.

He decided to study for the priesthood midway through high school and was ordained a priest in 1956. As the Cincinnati Archdiocese's first black priest, he had to endure racism from the start. The first parish to which he was assigned did not accept him and he was transferred after a short time to St. Joseph's.

In 1965 Archbishop Karl Alter of Cincinnati released Father Rivers from his teaching and parish assignments to work full time on Stimuli, his program of inculturating African-American culture with Catholic worship.

In 1971, the National Office of Black Catholics named him to head its newly created Department of Culture and Worship. He started the office's yearly national workshop on African-American liturgy, "Freeing the Spirit," which made its debut in Detroit in 1971 with about 1,000 participants. The workshops gave rise to a magazine on African-American liturgy of the same name, with Father Rivers as the editor.

In a 1977 interview, he described himself as a "cheerleader" who tried to enliven congregations, giving them the full experience of participation, rather than instructing them on the technicalities of music and worship.

The African-American Catholic hymnal, "Lead Me, Guide Me," is dedicated to Father Rivers. The dedication says he "paved the way for liturgical inculturation and inspired black Catholics to bring their artistic genius to Catholic worship."

Archbishop Donoghue retires

ATLANTA, from page 1

Archbishop Donoghue, 76, has headed the Atlanta Archdiocese since 1993. Before his appointment, Archbishop Donoghue, who holds a canon law degree from The Catholic University of America, had been head of the Diocese of Charlotte for nine years, after serving as a priest in the Washington Archdiocese since his ordination on June 4, 1955.

Archbishop Gregory was president of the USCCB during a turbulent time for the U.S. church, as the bishops dealt with the clergy sexual abuse crisis. It was perhaps one of the most difficult periods in the conference's history.

Under his leadership, the bishops adopted a set of norms for handling accusations of abuse by priests and other church personnel; established a lay board to review how cases have

been handled; commissioned an extensive analysis of the factors involved in the crisis; and created a staff office to oversee those efforts.

When he was first elected in 2001, much of the attention to Bishop Gregory focused on the fact that he was the first African-American to head the conference. One of nine active U.S. black bishops, he will be the third African-American to be named archbishop of Atlanta. His installation is scheduled for Jan. 17, which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Archbishop Donoghue, a native of Washington, was named to head the Atlanta Archdiocese after Archbishop James P. Lyke died of cancer late in 1992, just 18 months after his installation.

Archbishop Donoghue made national news this summer when he and Bishops Peter J. Jugis and Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C., issued a joint letter saying Catholic politicians or candidates who support keeping abortion legal were barred from receiving Com-

munion in any Catholic church in their dioceses.

The Aug. 4 letter said the ban can only be lifted after the politician's "public disavowal of former support for procured abortion" and "with the knowledge and consent of the local bishop."

Archbishop Donoghue has a long history of active involvement in fighting abortion, leading events in Atlanta on the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision and participating in marches and rallies in Georgia, Washington and North Carolina.

While in Charlotte, he oversaw a massive expansion and reorganization of the diocese's school system and created its first diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic News and Herald*.

During Bishop Schmitt's tenure in West Virginia, he was among the first bishops to establish diocesan policies for dealing with sexual abuse accusations. His 1993 policy emphasized removing accused offenders from their positions, reporting accusations to civil authorities and providing counseling and other aid to victims.

He also launched an innovative vocations recruitment campaign using more than 160 billboards with slogans including "Good Guys Do Wear Black" and "Some White Collar Jobs Are More Challenging Than Others."

Archbishop Gregory is a native of Chicago, born Dec. 7, 1947. Though not raised as a Catholic, his parents enrolled him at St. Carthage Catholic School for the sixth grade. Within weeks he had decided he wanted to be a Catholic and by the



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Archbishops Wilton D. Gregory and John F. Donoghue walk through the first floor of the Catholic Center in Atlanta Dec. 9.

end of the school year he had been baptized, made his first Communion and been confirmed.

He graduated from Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles College of Loyola University and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. After his ordination May 9, 1973, he obtained a doctorate in sacred liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome.

Then-Father Gregory served in the Archdiocese of Chicago in various positions before being named an auxiliary bishop there in 1983. He was installed as head of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., next to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, on Feb. 10, 1994.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta includes 69 counties in the northern part of Georgia. It has about 371,000 Catholics in a total population of nearly 6 million.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns,
editorials and viewpoints

Stand up — God's grace may be knocking at the door

The child was 2 years old when he lost his ability to walk. He had been walking since 11 months, but one day he began to wobble and fell down, unable to get up.

The child was diagnosed with Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease, which is, in simple terms, the unexplained interruption of blood to the head of the femur (thighbone). The result is degeneration and deformity of the thighbone area.

The wobble was probably the result of inflammation of the joint lining, resulting in a painful limp developed suddenly over a few hours. The only course of action was to establish a new blood supply to the affected areas. The child's legs were placed in metal braces with a rod to hold them apart and motionless while the damage repaired itself hopefully over the next 18 to 24 months.

Although much about the disease was unknown at the time, the doctors were optimistic because the child was diagnosed early; if treated early and correctly, 60-70 percent of children with the disease recover with no long-term disability. The only thing the parents and family could do was pray their only child would recover.

The boy remained in the braces for two years, unable to stand or walk. By 4 years of age, he still crawled around on the floor, dragging his metal-encased, useless legs behind him.

At Christmastime, he and his parents gathered with their family at the child's grandparents' apartment. Nine people enjoyed a feast prepared by the grandmother, who sat at the head of the table.

She had always been a religious woman, the grandmother; always active in her church, always saying countless prayers for her family, friends and fellow parishioners. She was sitting quietly, seemingly looking down at her plate, when there were three loud, distinct knocks at the front door.

Nobody seemed to hear them, except the child's mother. She glanced to her mother-in-law, who, still looking down, nodded in silent satisfaction. The child's mother was confused — no one else had reacted to the knocks — so she leaned across the table.

"I think there's someone at the door," the mother whispered.

The grandmother looked up. "No," she said softly. "I'll tell you about it later."

When the mother and grandmother were finally alone, the grandmother explained she had just finished a novena — a nine-day series of prayers — to St. Martin de Porres. The saint, the grandmother said, had just given her his response.

"Your son will be healed within six months," the grandmother said.

The mother wasn't sure what to think, but couldn't deny the knocks she had heard.

Within six months of the knocks on

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E.
MURRAY
EDITOR



the door, the child was out of his braces. He was not only standing on his own, but walking, running.

That Christmas miracle happened almost 30 years ago. That was my grandmother, my mother. I was the child.

My grandmother, Katherine Murray, died in 1987 while I was a teenager. They say she died peacefully, sitting upright in a chair while praying the rosary. The paramedics told my father they had never seen anyone so at peace.

Unfortunately I didn't learn about St. Martin de Porres' involvement in my condition until after my grandmother's death. The saint, born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, became a lay brother at the Dominican friary at Lima where he served, among other things, over the Dominican's infirmary and became known for his tender care of the sick and for his spectacular, often miraculous cures (including raising the dead).

Since moving to the South, I've heard many people scoff at the notion of "praying to saints" and intercessory prayers. One Baptist, who didn't know my story, told me Catholics wasted their time praying to dead saints who were "no better than anybody else."

Perhaps. And perhaps the metal braces clamped to my legs would have worked without St. Martin's intervention.

But two people heard those knocks on the door, and they believed. I don't really need any more convincing than that. But whenever I'm in doubt, all I have to do is stand up. The power of heaven always seems a little bit closer when I do.

It's a pity there are so many in this world who don't have faith, who don't know, or refuse to know, the effect a simple prayer can have, or the grace our Lord is willing to give. God does listen to our prayers. But do we always listen when he speaks to us?

We had better start listening — we don't want to miss the knocking at the door. You never know who it might be.

I don't run quite like I used to, but before I gather with my family this Christmas, I think I'll go for a quick sprint around the block. I know my grandmother will be smiling down as I dash about.

And while I'm out there, I think I'll have some grateful words for a certain Dominican saint and offer some prayers for the people I love.

COME, LET US ADORE HIM



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has proclaimed a "Year of the Eucharist" to be celebrated throughout the Church from October 2004 to October 2005. The theme he has chosen for our reflection during this year is "The Eucharist: the Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church."

In his encyclical on the Eucharist last year, the Holy Father reminded us: "The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist; by Him she is fed and by Him she is enlightened. ... Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful can in some way relive the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: 'their eyes were opened and they recognized Him' (Lk 24:31)" (n. 6).

During this eucharistic year we are also asked to "open" our eyes to see Christ more clearly and lovingly, especially in the celebration of the Mass and in the worship of Christ's eucharistic presence outside Mass. In his Apostolic Letter inaugurating the Year of the Eucharist, the Holy Father wrote: "If the only result of this year were the revival in all Christian communities of the celebration of Sunday Mass and an increase in eucharistic worship outside Mass, this year of grace would be abundantly successful" ("Stay with us, Lord," n. 29).

On the level of the universal Church, the Year of the Eucharist began with the International Eucharistic Congress in Mexico in October 2004; it will include the World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany Aug. 16-21, 2005, with the theme, "We have come to worship him"; and it will end with the Synod of Bishops in Rome Oct. 2-29, 2005.

On the level of our diocesan Church, a Diocesan Eucharistic Congress is being planned for Friday, Sept. 23 and Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005 at the Charlotte Convention Center. This will be a time of celebration, adoration and catechesis centered on the mystery of the Eucharist. More information will be published in the coming months regarding this event, but I ask you to set those dates aside now and plan to be with us for this Eucharistic Congress.

A special holy card is also being prepared for the Year of the Eucharist and will soon be available. You will find the text of the prayer printed below. It contains a special petition to Our Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life to serve Him in the Diocese of Charlotte, and a petition for His blessing on all our families throughout the diocese.

To celebrate this Year of the Eucharist, I ask that you give primary importance to your participation each Sunday in the celebration of Mass at your parish church. In addition, consider spending some time in eucharistic adoration outside of Mass. Many parishes have regularly scheduled times each month for eucharistic exposition and Benediction.

In three locations in our diocese, there are extended periods of Eucharistic Exposition during the daytime hours each day: at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville; at St. Barnabas Church in Arden; and at the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey. In addition, eucharistic exposition is perpetually available at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and at Maryfield Chapel in High Point. Would you consider becoming a regular adorer by committing to a scheduled hour each week at one of our adoration chapels?

The Holy Eucharist truly is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church. As we intensify our love for the Eucharist this year, may the life of grace also increase in each of us. Please know that I remember you in my daily prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

**Prayer to Obtain Grace and Mercy
Year of the Eucharist 2004-2005
Diocese of Charlotte**

Lord Jesus Christ, during this Year of the Eucharist, may our worship and contemplation of the mystery of your Body and Blood obtain for us an abundance of grace and mercy.

May you, the High Priest of the New Covenant, raise up priests as ardent but gentle stewards of Your Mysteries to shepherd your faithful people. May you also inspire generous hearts to follow you, the Divine Shepherd, as religious sisters and brothers. Throughout our diocese strengthen our families with your grace.

May Mary, Mother of God and patroness of our Diocese, assist us during this year as we contemplate your face with her.

May we offer the sacrifice of our lives in union with your perfect sacrifice and so come to share in the eternal banquet, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

A judge's ruling

Dying man sees God's love in life

Listening to the radio while driving to work, my mind drifted back to the old Mecklenburg County courthouse in Charlotte. It was a noisy place in the 1980s. Wooden floors trod by the innocent and the guilty filled the place with a constant shuffling echo.

As a television reporter in those days, I spent a fair amount of time in the halls of justice. Since I was in the building a lot, I got to know the clerks, the judges, the district attorney and some of the assistant DAs. That's how I met Brent McKnight, a newly hired assistant DA in 1980. He was a quiet person with an impish intensity that made him look somewhat distracted at times.

I didn't get to know him well; he did not handle the high-profile cases that I covered. Eventually we both moved on — he became a federal magistrate and then a federal district court judge. It wasn't until I read his November obituary that I learned McKnight was both a Morehead and a Rhodes Scholar and, in addition to his legal training, he earned a degree in theology.

Brent McKnight was a renaissance man.

My musing in the car was interrupted by a commercial for Harrah's Cherokee Casino in the western part of North Carolina. The announcer was extolling the virtue of playing a

game called "Set for Life." The names of regular gamblers are entered into a drawing and one of them wins \$100,000 a year for "life," which the rules describe as a 20-year period. Click. I turn it off.

Life is short, but 20 years? By those standards, McKnight lived a long life, but in the real world, away from the clanging bells and neon of a casino, we know that his 52 years were far too short.

McKnight leaves two legacies. The first is a distinguished legal career. He presided over cases; he wrote, he taught, he advocated for justice. The second legacy is a letter he wrote on the last day of his life. Evangelist Leighton Ford read part of it at the funeral: "Know the world is a lot more complex than the views presented by TV, the pop scene and modern art. They reduce life and take the soul out of it."

I doubt a more succinct commentary on the role of the media in our lives has ever been written. McKnight probably never heard Harrah's "Set for Life" commercial but he was talking about it and the shallowness of the "get rich, look great, be happy" promise that the media constantly tells us is the holy grail of our existence.

The media has had this nation on sensory overload since the NBC peacock unfurled his brightly colored

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



feathers in the 1960s. McKnight's reminder that the media doesn't have all of the answers is a refreshing thought in a land where we are inundated with messages of weight loss, Britney Spears and plasma TVs.

Fortunately, the McKnight letter didn't end with his thoughtful and biting criticism of the media. He continued: "Know the single most important thing is that this is not a dying world. God watches over us and it's alive."

What hope for the rest of us! A dying man, cheated out of what undoubtedly would have been a life of continued accomplishment and success, sees the handiwork of the Lord and tells us to rejoice in it. Published reports say that McKnight loved this world and didn't want to leave it. Yet his parting thought was that, thanks to the love of God, we remain in a glorious place.

I don't know who won the "Set for Life" drawing at the gambling casino, but I do know that before he left us, Brent McKnight was set for eternity.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

What to give, what to give?

As I Was Saying ...

KAREN EVANS
STAFF WRITER



It's the middle of December, and most of my Christmas shopping is done. (Thank you, online shopping.) Just one more niece to buy for, and if she doesn't give me some suggestions soon, she'll be receiving that book I threatened her with the last time I spoke to her.

So now that the family shopping is almost done, I can turn my attention to the other people in my life. Unfortunately, my Christmas money is diminished, and I spent my Christmas bonus buying "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy DVDs. So, here's what they are getting, since money is no object:

For my family: Wishes for love, health and happiness.

For my "sassy" friends: Hopes for health, financial stability and an absence of emotional turmoil for the next year. They've been through a lot this year, and they deserve some happiness.

For all my friends, new and old, near and far: The knowledge that I think of you often and you are always in my heart.

For my editor, Kevin: Punctuality and met deadlines. (This one is ironic, since I rolled into the office at 10 a.m. today and this column was due yesterday.)

For my readers: My thanks for appreciating my work this past year, and my apologies if you didn't. We may not always agree, but I hope that maybe I helped you see your neighbors with more compassion.

For soldiers at war: The hope that they treat each other and the "enemy" with compassion and fairness.

For political and religious leaders: The hope that they act in the best interest of those they serve.

For Christians throughout the world: The hope that they know why we celebrate Christmas, and the ability to try to live our lives in the spirit of Christ's love.

For all people — Christian, Muslim, Jewish, etc.; rich or poor; educated or not: My prayers that they openly receive God's love and grace.

For my lord, Jesus Christ: My sincere desire to always do your will.

For my niece, Caitlin: A book, unless you tell me soon what you want for Christmas (besides a Carolina Panthers jersey, since it's out of my price range and Grandma already bought it for you.)

The merriest of Christmases to all!

My Christmas wish for you

Gift of hope makes for better tomorrow

Sometimes I wish I never had studied history! For what a person learns is that history repeats itself when it comes to battles and war.

Right now the United States not only is fighting terrorism, but also a more terrifying war on corruption here and abroad. Without a doubt, if corruption could be stamped out, we wouldn't have war. Unfortunately, this story is repeatedly told in history, and we know how the story goes.

During my lifetime, the United States has fought World War II and the Korean, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq wars, to say nothing of fighting other smaller wars. Even when wars are won, history appears to repeat itself with new battles.

In our personal lives, we forever are fighting inner battles. If we are honest with ourselves, we know that the inner peace and unity we desire never fully will be achieved in this world. But when taken too seriously, this reality of our personal history might easily lead us to despair and depression.

Despair is insidious. It whispers to us: "Forget your enthusiasm for a brighter future. What you see today

will be repeated tomorrow. Nothing is new, and you have no control over history, which repeats itself."

Christmas is a time of hope. As the Hebrew nation looked forward to a Messiah, so are we Christians meant to be forward looking. But how is this forward-looking spirit cultivated?

Recently, the Catholic Church Extension Society, an organization dedicated to serving our home missions, sent me the final version of a video titled "The Invisible Church." It is the story of bishops, priests and lay leaders who are working with havens in the outposts of this country.

The video reminds us that the United States still is a mission country in need of missionary work. More important, it reminds us that there are countless heroic, caring people dedicated to serving the less fortunate. As grim as the circumstances in which these missionaries' work may be, they constantly bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations. They embody a spirit that always looks for ways to help people look forward to tomorrow and to plan ways to improve things.

Wherever we live — in a rural,

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



suburban or urban setting — there is someone who either is helping us or helping someone around us to be forward looking and to see hope in the coming day.

This Christmas, it is my wish that you be especially blessed with the gift of hope. As hopeless as things sometimes may seem, may you never lose your desire to search for that something special that will cause you to look forward to tomorrow.

May you never lose your enthusiasm for devising new plans to improve your life.

May you never lose sight of those around you whose care forever is generating new hope.

May God bless you with a caring disposition that brings hope to others, and may you never lose your belief in the God of history, who ultimately controls it.

Have a very blessed Christmas filled with the hope of the Christ Child!

Pouncing on victory

Charlotte Catholic captures state football championship



PHOTO BY STEVE LYONS

With five seconds remaining in the state 2AA championship football game, a desperation pass is tipped by Charlotte Catholic High School defenders before being caught by a Western Alamance High School receiver just short of the end zone. Charlotte Catholic won the game 14-7, the team's first state championship since 1977.

BY MATT GAROFALO

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Cougars football team capped a perfect 16-0 season by capturing the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2AA Championship with a thrilling 14-7 victory over Western Alamance High School at Duke University's Wallace Wade Stadium Dec. 11. The championship was the first for the Cougars and longtime coach Jim Oddo since 1977.

The game took place before thousands of students, alumni, family and friends who made the trip to Durham to support the team. It was the culmination of a magical season that saw the entire Charlotte Catholic community in Charlotte following the team through its regular season and run through the playoffs.

The Cougars were the champions of the Rocky River Conference after a perfect 11-0 regular season. They were led by senior running back Nick Starcevic, who set a school record rushing for 1,994 yards — the sixth highest total in Mecklenburg County history — and 30 touchdowns. The team also featured a stubborn defense that limited opponents to an average of 12 points per game.

Charlotte Catholic advanced through the early rounds of the state playoffs with victories over West Caldwell (35-6), Canton Pishgah (27-21) and Monroe (47-33) high schools. They then defeated Catawba Bandys by a 14-9 score to capture the 2AA Western Championship. That victory set up the meeting with the Western Alamance

Warriors for the state championship.

When the Cougars arrived at the Duke campus on game day, they began their pre-game preparation as they always do, with Father John Allen, school chaplain and vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrating Mass. The only difference was that they were in historic Duke Chapel instead of Charlotte Catholic's new chapel.

Facing their toughest opponent of the season, Charlotte Catholic opened the scoring with a touchdown run by Starcevic late in the first quarter. Western Alamance tied the game with a scoring pass with 42 seconds remaining in the half. The score remained knotted up through most of the second half, as both team's defenses played rugged, physical football.

With less than four remaining in the game, the Cougars got the ball at their own 22-yard line. In spite of their previous difficulty moving the ball against the Western Alamance defense, Charlotte Catholic pounded away yard by yard and inch by inch. The key play was a 22-yard screen pass from quarterback Craig Warnement to Starcevic, which put the Cougars deep in Western Alamance's territory.

In this final drive, Charlotte Catholic marched 78 yards in nine plays and finally took the lead on a 2-yard run by Starcevic with exactly one minute left in the game.

The game wasn't over, however, as Western Alamance was able to move the ball to the Charlotte Catholic 25-yard line with five seconds remaining. A desperation pass was tipped by several Charlotte Catholic defenders before being caught by a Western Alamance receiver just short of the end zone as time ran out.

The Charlotte Catholic players rushed the field to celebrate the victory. Running back Brett Bauer, defensive tackle Tyler Bullard and Starcevic earned awards as the game's best offensive player, defensive player and most valuable player, respectively.

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Year of the
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|PAGE 7

DECEMBER 31, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 13

2004: A year in review

Clergy sex abuse fallout, debate on Catholics in politics earn top stories

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — According to Catholic News Service, for the third straight year the fallout from the Catholic clergy sexual abuse of minors was one of the biggest ongoing religious news stories in the United States, followed closely in Catholic circles by a debate over the relationship between church teachings and the political responsibilities of Catholics.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the topic that garnered the most attention was

See REVIEW, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis prays during Mass at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Nov. 7. A debate over the relationship between church teachings and the political responsibility of Catholics was one of the biggest religious news stories in 2004. Bishop Jugis joined Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker in an August letter stating Catholic politicians who support abortion may not be admitted to Communion in their dioceses.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Southern bishops call for more humane prison conditions

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MARTIN, Ky. — In a fifth pastoral letter on criminal justice, bishops from 11 Southern states called for safer, more humane prison conditions, including improved substance abuse programs and treatment for those who are mentally ill.

Prisoners in work programs should receive a just wage for their labor, they said.

Thirty-two diocesan bishops in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina,

See JUSTICE, page 4

Projecting the Christmas spirit

BOSTON CHAPLAIN,
PHOTOGRAPHER BRIGHTEN
CHRISTMAS FOR TROOPS
OVERSEAS

BY DONIS TRACY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON — Two men living a world apart who have never met face to face helped brighten this Christmas season for troops worldwide.

Father Timothy Butler, a priest of the Boston Archdiocese and U.S. Air Force chaplain currently serving a four-month tour of duty on Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, collaborated with stained-glass window photographer P. Neil Ralley to develop a system to

See IRAQ, page 5



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Survivors in Cuddalore, India, survey the damage to their house that was destroyed when a tsunami hit Dec. 26.

WAVE OF DISASTER

Marian shrine in India becomes makeshift morgue after tsunami

Many Mass attendees spared from devastation

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VAILANKANNI, India — Father P. Xavier used to care for thousands of pilgrims who flocked to India's most famous Marian shrine during the Christmas season.

But this year, the priest was busy recovering dead bodies from under the debris of inns and shops that once ringed the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health at Vailankanni, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Most of these buildings collapsed Dec. 26 after a tsunami — a series of waves generated

See TSUNAMI, page 8

Culture Watch

New book examines canon law; 'Apprentice' winner talks about faith, business

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In Our Schools

Carolina Panthers at St. Patrick; musical moments with students

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Perspectives

Bishop Jugis' letter on National Migration Week; a 21st century Christmas tale

|PAGES 14-15

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE MOST BLESSED TRINITY ARCHIVES

Sister Peter Claver Fahy, who worked in prison ministry in Philadelphia until age 99, is seen in this undated photo. Sister Fahy died Dec. 3 at the age of 105 in Philadelphia. She began her prison ministry in Philadelphia at age 80 after a half-century of service as a nun.

Nun who persevered in prison ministry until age 99 dies at 105

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — When Trinitarian Sister Peter Claver Fahy came to Philadelphia at the age of 80 to begin a ministry of prayer in her official "retirement," she immediately set to work in some of the toughest prisons in the region.

She led prayer and Bible readings in her ministry to incarcerated men and wrote letters to judges on their behalf until she could no longer hobble down the long prison halls at age 99.

Loved and respected by wealthy businessmen and prison inmates alike, Sister Peter Claver died Dec. 3 at the age of 105 at the motherhouse of her order, the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, in Philadelphia.

"She had a profound impact. She was an extremely zealous missionary, and she was able to think outside the box," said Sister Barbara deMondeville, historian for the Trinitarian sisters.

"All her life she found creative ways to work with the poor and to work with prisoners," said Sister deMondeville. "She established houses of hospitality for women in crisis long before that was the thing to do."

Born in Rome, Ga., as Hannah Elizabeth Fahy, she entered the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed

Trinity in 1926, then a young congregation founded in Alabama that specialized in missionary work and outreach among the poor. She took the name Sister Peter Claver of the Most Precious Blood, honoring her special apostolate to African-Americans and her love of Christ.

Over the next half-century, Sister Peter Claver served as a teacher, principal, librarian, director of social services, director of a house of prayer, and diocesan director of religious education.

In 1933, she met Dorothy Day, a convert and a founder of the Catholic Worker movement whose cause for canonization is now under consideration. The two women had in common Catholic orthodoxy, coupled with an uncompromising championship for those on society's margins.

The two women remained lifelong friends, and Sister Peter Claver was one of the last people to visit Day before the activist's death in 1980. Day said it was Sister Peter Claver who introduced her to spiritual retreats and made her Catholic life complete.

Sister Peter Claver's funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 7 at the Most Blessed Trinity motherhouse.

Former Iraq administrator honored for service to United States, Iraq

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — One day after receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bush at the White House Dec. 14, L. Paul Bremer III, former administrator in Iraq, was honored by Civitas Dei, a Catholic business association, in Indianapolis for courageous leadership and service to the United States.

Bremer received the Thomas E. Burnett Jr. Heroic Leadership Award, named in honor of Burnett who helped fight terrorists on board hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001, forcing the plane to crash in Pennsylvania instead of into the White House, which officials believed was the intended target.

Bremer, a Catholic, served as the presidential envoy to Iraq and administrator of the coalition provisional authority there from May 6, 2003, to June 28, 2004.

There is a "true struggle ... between good and evil" in Iraq, said Bremer.

"There really are evil men out there who want to kill us, and kill us by the thousands."

"These are people who hate the West for what we are, and they hate everything about us ... the very foundations of Western society, the separation of church and state, universal suffrage, women's education, democratic freedoms, political parties, a free press," he said.

In the war against terrorism, he said, "there are no compromises with these people. There's no deal to be made with them. They simply have to be confronted and defeated" because they represent a significant threat to American security.

"We are going to be called upon to be tough-minded and to defeat these evil men," Bremer said. "This, by the way, is not a new role for the Catholic Church. For centuries, Catholicism, I believe, has played an important role in this titanic struggle for freedom and democracy."

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — One of Charlotte's greatest struggles is the need to achieve unity among its increasingly diverse population. A panel will discuss "A Vision of Racial Unity: What Will it Take?" at Biss Hall of St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., Jan. 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Panelists will include Rev. Andy Baxter, executive director, Mecklenburg Ministries; Lynetta Chisolm, director of work force diversity, Duke Energy; and Toni Tupponce, chair of the African-American Affairs Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte. Free parking will be available in "The Green," the underground parking deck below the park to the left of St. Peter Church. For more information, call Robert Cook at (704) 336-8643 or e-mail rwcook@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

CHARLOTTE — *Catholics Returning Home*, a program for non-practicing or part-time Catholics, will be offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 22. Topics will include The Catholic Church Today — Changes Since Vatican II; The Creed — What Catholics Believe; The Mass — Walk Through & Explanations; Confession/Reconciliation; and Catholic Spirituality (Scripted vs. Charismatic Prayer). All meetings will include a question-and-answer session. For more information, contact Ed Powers at (704) 553-7273.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you for prayer at 8:15 a.m., 12 p.m.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Hopelessness brews in Sudan as Darfur violence continues, report says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hatred and hopelessness are brewing in Darfur as unrelenting violence still enflames western Sudan, according to Caritas Internationalis.

"Darfur is a tinderbox of war, dread and very little hope," according to a Dec. 20 report by Caritas, the Vatican-based global confederation of Catholic social service and development organizations.

"Reports of armed clashes throughout the region continue to mount, fueling concerns that whatever humanitarian progress has been made faced new threats and potential obstacles," the report said.

Caritas Internationalis has joined forces with Action by Churches Together International in its emergency response to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

In a joint, ecumenical appeal, Caritas is working to provide shelter,

water, sanitation and cooking materials to 500,000 displaced people in southern and western Darfur.

At least 1.2 million people have been forced to flee their homes in the almost two years of fighting among rebels, the Sudanese army and Arab militia groups. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in overcrowded camps in Sudan and neighboring Chad.

Reporting on conditions in a camp near the city of Garsilla, in western Darfur, Caritas said violence continues to haunt refugees, especially women who risk sexual assault and violence by roaming militias. Rape is "a problem on a daily basis," a humanitarian worker told Caritas.

Human rights groups claim Arab militia backed by the Sudanese government are waging a terror campaign against black Africans in order to push them from their lands in Darfur.

or 5 p.m. will a meal afterward. The sacrament of reconciliation is offered by appointment. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. To schedule a visit, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a meeting of the *Gaston Coalition for a Moratorium Now* Jan. 6, 7-8 p.m. in the parish center. The GCMN is a grassroots organization advocating a two-year study of North Carolina's capital punishment process along with a moratorium on executions. For more information, contact George Burazer at (704) 822-6350 or georgemaryburazer@msn.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — The *Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe* will be on display at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Jan. 6-9. The schedule of the visitation at St. Therese is as follows: Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Jan. 8, 4-6:30 p.m.; Jan. 9, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 664-3992 for specific service and devotion times.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at

7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — *Court St. Mary, Mother of God of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas* will meet in the fellowship hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., Jan. 8, after the 9 a.m. Mass. Mass intentions for that date will be for the intentions of members of the Court. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Desire for children cannot justify destroying embryos, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The legitimate desire for children or the hope for a cure for a disease can never excuse the immoral destruction of human life in the destruction of human embryos, Pope John Paul II said.

Human life is to be "accepted with love and in love" from the moment of its conception, the pope told members of the Italian Forum of Family Associations during a Dec. 18 audience at the Vatican.

Artificial fertilization techniques that include the destruction of some fertilized embryos and the use of embryos to harvest stem cells in the hope of curing disease are examples of "desires taking the place of an authentic right," the right to life, the pope said.

"The legitimate desire for a child or for health cannot be transformed into an unconditional right to the point of justifying the suppression of other human rights," the pope said.

"Science and technology are truly at

the service of humanity only if they safeguard ... all the human subjects involved in the generative process," he said.

Pope John Paul encouraged Catholic family groups to be more active in defending human life and the family in the field of politics.

"Unfortunately, attacks on marriage and the family are stronger and more radical today both on an ideological front as well as in the area of law," he said.

The pope encouraged members of the forum to help people understand that the family cannot be reduced "to a private, socially irrelevant experience of affection," because the permanent union of a man and a woman and their bringing children into the world is the foundation of society.

"The one who destroys this basic fabric of human coexistence deeply wounds society and provokes damage that often is irreparable," he said.

Music and history



The Mariachi Los Viajeros Band provides music for the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration for students, faculty, staff and parents at Our Lady of the Assumption School Dec. 13. The event began with a prayer service, followed by music, dancing and a cast of fifth-graders portraying the story of Juan Diego's encounter with Mary, who appeared as an Aztec princess near Mexico City in 1531.

POPE CREATES NEW TEXAS ARCHDIOCESE, TRANSFERS THREE BISHOPS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has elevated the Diocese of Galveston-Houston to an archdiocese, appointed three bishops to new posts and accepted the resignation of Archbishop Patrick F. Flores of San Antonio.

The announcements were made Dec. 29 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The bishops receiving new posts are:

— Auxiliary Bishop Jose H. Gomez of Denver, who was named to replace Archbishop Flores in San Antonio.

— Bishop Robert J. Carlson of Sioux

Falls, S.D., who was named to head the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich., replacing Bishop Kenneth E. Untener, who died March 27.

— Auxiliary Bishop Jerome E. Listeki of Chicago who was named head of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., left vacant in December 2003 when its leader was named to head the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

With the elevation of Galveston-Houston to an archdiocese, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza becomes an archbishop and Bishop Daniel N. DiNardo, named coadjutor bishop of Galveston-Houston last January, becomes coadjutor archbishop.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan 3-7
Annual Bishops' Retreat
Palm Beach, Fla.

CORRECTIONS - DEC. 17 ISSUE

The number of Knights of Columbus councils in North Carolina is 116. The correct amount of funds they've raised collectively is \$14,000,000.

Southern bishops call for more criminal justice

JUSTICE, from page 1

Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas signed the letter, which they issued as members of the Bishops' Advisory Committee of the Kentucky-based Catholic Committee of the South.

"We must recognize the human dignity of all prisoners and remember that Jesus himself was a prisoner," said the letter, released in mid-December during the Advent season.

The letter quoted from the national statement on crime and criminal justice adopted by the U.S. bishops in November 2000: "We believe the current trend of more and more people in prisons, with little education and drug treatment, does not reflect Christian values and will not make our communities safer."

Saying that protecting society and rehabilitating criminals "calls for a focus on rehabilitation and restoration," the Southern bishops said such an approach has significant policy implications for correctional justice systems.

At the top of the list, they said, "We must stop the practice of putting so

many people in prison. ... Our imprisonment rate is the highest in the world — six to 12 times higher than rates in other Western countries. The United States now spends more than \$50 billion per year on jails and prisons."

Resources being used to build more prisons would be better spent on "crime prevention, rehabilitation of prisoners, education, substance abuse (treatment) and programs of probation, parole and re-integration," they said.

Citing the transforming effect of faith on people's lives, the bishops said, "Genuine religious participation contributes to rehabilitation and renewal. Therefore, all jails, prisons or detention facilities should have a regular and ongoing Catholic ministry."

"Prisoners are entitled to be safe" from abuse or violence by prison gangs, other inmates or guards, they said.

They also called for an end to "racism and discrimination" in criminal justice, citing the higher imprisonment rates of blacks and Hispanics than of whites.

Citing the correlation between drug abuse and crime, they said, "All prisoners deserve the opportunity to participate in substance abuse programs. ... Providing drug treatment will save more than it will cost in the long run."

"Many in our prison system would do better in settings more equipped to handle their mental health needs," they said.

The bishops called for more community assistance for families of those in prison, including preparing them for the steps needed to reintegrate prisoners into society following their release.

"We call for national standards to be adopted and enforced regarding pay for prisoners," they said. "Enabling prisoners to work for a fair wage may, among other things, help keep their families off welfare, either totally or partially."

The bishops of the South began the series of pastoral letters on aspects of the criminal justice system in December 2002, releasing a new one each Advent and Lent, as a follow-up to the bishops' national statement in 2000.

The first letter focused on challenges for the criminal justice process in the South, where incarceration rates are the highest in the country.

The second letter criticized the growing privatization of U.S. prisons, the third focused on juvenile justice and the fourth dealt with restorative justice and alternatives to prison.

The next letter will discuss post-release issues and the one after that will be on women in prison, she said.

A knightly donation



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Ray Marr, left, and J.C. Peloquin of the Knights of Columbus St. Mark Council 12654 present a \$1,000 check to Principal Jimmy Poole and teacher Debra Tomkinson at North Mecklenburg High School in Huntersville. The money was collected by the Knights during their annual Operation LAMB Tootsie Roll fundraising campaign to help handicapped children. The money will be used in the Exceptional Children's program at the school.



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Inmate James Owens sings the closing hymn at the Communion service at Hays State Prison in Trion, Ga., June 8. The prison is a maximum-security facility located near the Alabama border for those who have committed felonies ranging from triple homicide to child sex abuse. Bishops from 11 Southern states have recently issued a fifth pastoral letter on criminal justice.

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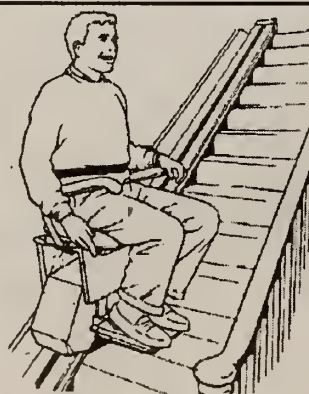
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'We were a perfect match for the project.'

Chaplain, photographer brighten troops' Christmas

IRAQ, from page 1

enliven the stark worship spaces normally used by troops overseas.

The system allowed more than 100 images of stained-glass windows to be projected onto the wall of tents, hangars, ship's chapels — virtually any facility in which troops celebrated Christmas services.

"With Neil's great images and technical know-how and my field experience and connections, we were a perfect match for the project," said Father Butler.

"The idea for the visual presentation was entirely Father Butler's," said Ralley, speaking via telephone from his home in Verona, N.J. "He was certainly the one with the vision of what this project was to be."

Father Butler said those at Manas Air Base, a strategic hub for U.S. military personnel and equipment flowing in and out of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, live and work in tents.

"Everything in our camp is tan and gray," he said.

As the Christmas season approached, the chaplain began to "think of a way to create a sense of sacred space" inside these "relatively bare" tents used for worship.

"Stained-glass windows are so colorful and ethereal. I figured these might work well," he said.

Working with little more than a digital video projector normally used to show recreational movies, he began

to search the Internet for usable images of stained-glass windows. He stumbled across Ralley's Web site, www.stainedglassphotography.com.

"Of all the Web sites I came across, (Ralley's) had the best selection and quality of images," said Father Butler.

He first downloaded one image as a trial. Impressed by the beauty of the image, but not wanting to infringe on any copyrights, he contacted Ralley and asked to use the pictures in creating a slide show of the stained-glass windows to "set a mood" for troops entering Christmas midnight Mass.

Father Butler hoped he might also be able to use a single image as a continuously projected background throughout the Mass.

Ralley not only gave permission for Father Butler to use any of the images on his Web site, he offered to create the slide show himself.

"He said it would be an honor to help make the Christmas liturgies more special for our troops over here," the chaplain said.

Father Butler began to realize many other chaplains throughout Iraq and Afghanistan might wish to use the stained-glass images. He said digital projectors such as the one he used are provided to chaplains assigned to bases and posts — whether in tents or more permanent facilities — as well as ships.

Consequently, Ralley posted a slide-show program containing the images on a limited-access section of his Web site for military chaplains anywhere in the world to download. For his part, Father Butler has spread access information to numerous chaplains throughout the Afghan and Iraqi theaters of operations.

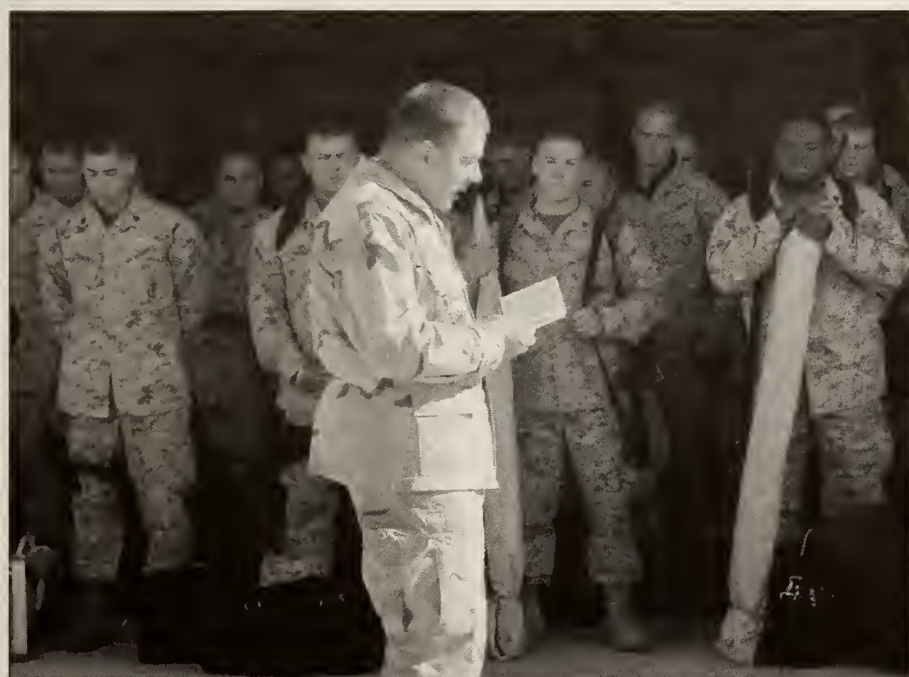
Ralley hoped the show, which lasts approximately a half-hour, "will brighten up the otherwise Spartan places of worship for our soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen during Christmas services."



CNS PHOTO BY P. NEIL RALLEY

Above: This detail of the Annunciation window at the Convent of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, N.J., is among the 100 images of stained-glass windows that will be projected onto the walls of temporary worship spaces used by U.S. troops overseas. A military chaplain from Boston and a New Jersey-based photographer put together the images for Christmas services.

Below: U.S. Air Force chaplain Father Timothy Butler prays with troops preparing to board air transports to Afghanistan at Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan. Father Butler and New Jersey photographer P. Neil Ralley developed a system that will allow 100 images of stained-glass windows to be projected onto the walls of worship places used by troops for Christmas.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY FATHER BUTLER




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Rev. Arthur J. Racette 1975

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EVENTS FOR THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST, OCTOBER 2004 - OCTOBER 2005

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005, Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, principal patroness of the Diocese of Charlotte

Pontifical Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral; Masses in all parishes

Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005, Epiphany: "Come, let us adore Him"

Diocesan Prayer for the Year of the Eucharist at all Masses

Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005 (4 p.m.)

Youth Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey

Tuesday, March 22, 2005, Tuesday of Holy Week -- St. Patrick Cathedral

Chrism Mass with Bishop Peter J. Jugis; blessing of sacramental oils

Thursday, March 24, 2005, Holy Thursday

Diocesan Prayer for the Year of the Eucharist prayed at all evening Masses of the Lord's Supper

Saturday, May 28, 2005

Ordinations to the Holy Priesthood

Sunday, May 29, 2005, Solemnity of Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi procession encouraged in each parish; Diocesan prayer offered at all Masses

Friday, June 3, 2005, Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Prayers in all parishes for the sanctity of priests

Tuesday, Aug. 16-Sunday, Aug. 21, 2005,

World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany; Celebrations in parishes

Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, Solemnity of the Anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral of Charlotte

Pontifical Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral and Prayer of the Faithful added in each parish

Throughout the year:

Day of Dedication of each parish church celebrated

Encouragement of eucharistic adoration in parishes

Holy Hours, eucharistic adoration day, 40-hour devotions, perpetual adoration

Catechetical articles in *The Charlotte News & Herald*

Suggested parish study of General Instruction of the Roman Missal; the Apostolic Letter, "Stay with us, Lord" ("Mane Nobiscum Domine"); "Suggestions and Proposals" of Congregation of Divine Worship; the Apostolic Letter, "Dies Domini."

Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center "Come, let us adore Him."

Friday - Evening, Sept. 23, 2005

Sacred music concert in Banquet Hall

All night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick Cathedral

Saturday - All day, Sept. 24, 2005

Morning eucharistic procession from St. Peter Church to Charlotte Convention Center

Adoration, benediction and exposition with homily

"Tracks" with major speakers: general, Hispanic and other language groups, teen, K-5

Honoring those with 25th and 50th jubilees: Priests, deacons, religious men and women, marriages

Celebrating the Confirmandi, first Communicants and Neophytes

4:30 p.m. closing Mass with procession of parishes and organizations

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

New section devoted to the Eucharist

Welcome to a new section of *The Catholic News & Herald* devoted to the Eucharist.

Pope John Paul II recently proclaimed October 2004 through October 2005 as the Year of the Eucharist, and this month Bishop Peter J. Jugis announced that the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte this coming September 2005.

This historic event, a first for the Diocese of Charlotte, will be a wonderful

celebration of engaging speakers, heartfelt prayer and exultant rejoicing. More information on the Eucharistic Congress is available online at www.goeucharist.com.

To coincide with these events, this section will be an ongoing devotion to and exploration of the Eucharist, with stories, columns and other information relating to the Eucharist, eucharistic adoration, the Eucharistic Congress and the Year of the Eucharist.

Eucharistic adoration is offered at the following churches:

- Andrews — Holy Redeemer Church — Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
- Arden — St. Barnabas Church — Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Asheboro — St. Joseph Church — first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m.
- Asheville — Basilica of St. Lawrence — daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Belmont — Mary, Help of Christians Church at Belmont Abbey — daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Boone — St. Elizabeth Church — first Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass for one hour
- Bryson City — St. Joseph Church — first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
- Charlotte — Our Lady of the Assumption Church — first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour
- Charlotte — St. Gabriel Church — perpetual adoration
- Charlotte — St. Matthew Church — Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday, in chapel
- Charlotte — St. Peter Church — first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
- Charlotte — St. Thomas Aquinas Church — Friday evenings, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; first Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday
- Charlotte — St. Vincent de Paul Church — first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m.
- Clemmons — Holy Family Church — Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
- Denver — Holy Spirit Church — first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 p.m. Saturday
- Franklin — St. Francis of Assisi Church — first Fridays, 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Gastonia — St. Michael Church — eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
- Greensboro — St. Paul the Apostle Church — first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Hendersonville — Immaculate Conception Church — first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
- Hickory — St. Aloysius Church — first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- High Point — Christ the King Church — first Fridays, call church for time
- High Point — Maryfield Chapel — perpetual adoration
- Huntersville — St. Mark Church — Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Jefferson — St. Francis of Assisi Church — Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Kemersville — Holy Cross Church — Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
- Linville — St. Bernadette Church — Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass
- Mocksville — St. Francis of Assisi Church — first Fridays, 11 a.m.; Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Mt. Airy — Holy Angels Church — Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
- Newton — St. Joseph Church — first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
- Salisbury — Sacred Heart Church — Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Spruce Pine — St. Lucien Church — first Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Statesville — St. Philip Church — first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Swannanoa — St. Margaret Mary Church — first Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.
- Sylva — St. Mary Church — first Saturdays following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
- Tryon — St. John the Baptist Church — Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Waynesville — St. John the Evangelist Church — first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
- Winston-Salem — St. Leo the Great Church — first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m., expect during summer months.

To include your church in this listing, please call (704) 370-3354.

Dignum et iustum Est
Understanding the Mystery of the Mass

Pope John Paul II recently designated Oct. 17, 2004 to Oct. 29, 2005 as the Year of the Eucharist. During this year, we have the wonderful privilege to commemorate and devote ourselves more faithfully to our Lord, who is truly present in the holy Eucharist.

During this year designated to the sacrament of our Lord's body and blood, we would benefit greatly to contemplate the tremendous mystery of the holy sacrifice of the Mass and the gift of the holy Eucharist. In doing so, we are not about to explain away the mystery that has physically, spiritually and intellectually nourished the Catholic Church for 2,000 years. Our task is to discover, or rather rediscover, the fruits of our redemption purchased by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

We are going to spend the better part of this year devoted to the holy Eucharist to penetrate more deeply into the mystery of the Mass and the sacrament of the altar in our weekly catechism lessons. And so, our discussion this week begins with the end.

What is the purpose of the Mass? Why do we go to Mass?

Let us answer the latter first. We go to Mass because God obliges us, commands us and even demands our presence at Mass each week. Recall that for thousands of years, ever since God led the Israelites, his people, from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, he has commanded his chosen people to "keep holy the Sabbath."

For the Jews, this meant the strict observance of rest from labor in order to be refreshed. Man is to imitate God his creator who rested from the six days of work on the seventh day. And on this Sabbath day, man is to recall the goodness of God in delivering his people from slavery, to remember God's covenant with his people and to praise, worship and adore God.

For Christians, we recall the fulfillment of God's saving work in Jesus Christ, who releases man from the spiritual bondage of sin and death. Man is still obliged by God to "keep holy the Sabbath" even though the Sabbath for Christians is not marked on Saturday, the seventh day, but Sunday, which is the first day of the new creation, the eighth day.

So essential is keeping "holy the Sabbath day" that the first precept of the church is to "attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation." Failure to do so without a good mitigating reason is considered mortal sin and can separate us from God.

So why does God oblige us to attend Mass? Ultimately, there are two reasons.

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



First, *dignum et iustum est*. "It is right to give thanks and praise." The Mass teaches us the ultimate reason for attending Mass is that God deserves it. All that we are and all that we have been given is a pure gift from God. We cannot earn his love; we cannot merit his grace; we cannot purchase life without end. All is a divine gift.

Therefore, we are in debt to God. And since God creates us for himself, to honor him, to adore him and to serve him alone, we are bound by the duty of justice to offer him the greatest sacrifice of praise that is humanly possible. Justice demands that God, who is perfect, receive a perfect sacrifice of praise. But man, estranged from God since the sin of Adam and Eve, is essentially incapable of offering a perfect sacrifice. That is, until God became man and offered himself on our behalf. And this brings us to the second ultimate reason for attending Mass.

We not only render to God the praise he is due at Mass, but we do so principally through Jesus Christ, the high priest. At Mass, we unite ourselves with the worship of the Son unto the Father in the Holy Spirit. By recalling the events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, and through a supernatural miracle at every Mass, we are truly present at Calvary, present when Christ offered the one perfect sacrifice of his body and blood to the Father and offered the fruits of his sacrifice to you and me.

Christ's sacrifice is the perfect expression of divine justice and divine mercy. And in recalling these same events day after day, week after week, year after year, we approach our goal, which is salvation.

And so, God commands us to "keep holy the Sabbath" and obliges us to attend Mass in order to worship him through the perfect worship of his own son so that we may receive the sacramental gift of our redemption, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Next week, we will examine how to prepare ourselves for the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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Shrine becomes morgue for victims

TSUNAMI, from page 1

by an undersea seismic disturbance — struck southern coastal areas.

A massive earthquake off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island generated tsunamis with waves up to 33 feet high that caused massive devastation on islands and coastlines of 12 countries in South and Southeast Asia.

As of Dec. 29, the combined death toll had passed 77,000, and may surpass 100,000. Indonesia had the highest reported number of casualties, more than 45,000; with Sri Lanka second at 23,000. In India, at least 12,500 deaths. The tolls were expected to rise.

"Our shrine has become a graveyard," said Father Xavier, the shrine rector, as he led groups of volunteers.

Huge waves struck when Father Xavier was overseeing Mass celebrations Dec. 26. Thousands of people had been at the shrine; spending Christmas there is a custom among many Christians in Tamil Nadu and neighboring states.

"We do not know the number of pilgrims who have died in this disaster, but we have collected about 300 bodies so far," Father Xavier said.

The waves destroyed the compound wall but spared the shrine, which is on higher ground. Most victims were on the adjacent beach after the first Sunday morning Mass.

The waves struck about 9:20 a.m. Those on the seashore scurried for cover, but the massive waves dragged most of them away. The waves receded almost at the same speed they came, sucking hundreds of people into the churning sea.

Father Xavier said that as he rushed out of the shrine, he saw water everywhere and bodies on the beach.

The priest said that after he overcame his shock and fear, he asked parish lay leaders to launch a rescue mission. The assault by the sea had snapped telephone and electricity lines, so the parish sent someone to the diocesan headquarters to seek aid.

Villages around the Vailankanni shrine witnessed heart-rending scenes as rescue teams pulled out body after body. An estimated 3,000 people have perished in the 28-mile stretch of coast

WANT TO HELP?

Catholic Relief Services is providing immediate and ongoing assistance for the disaster victims. The Catholic community of the Diocese of Charlotte is responding to this need by collecting funds. Please consider making a donation to support this effort.

Kindly respond to parish initiatives by remitting a contribution directly to the parish. Make checks payable to your parish, marked clearly for the CRS Tsunami Relief effort.

Alternatively, donations may be sent to the Diocese of Charlotte, Attn: CRS Tsunami Relief, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. All contributions will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your generosity.

REVIEW, from page 1

"Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion." The joint statement, issued in August by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and then-Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C., stated Catholic politicians or candidates who persistently support abortion may not be admitted to holy Communion in their dioceses.

"We received hundreds of e-mails and letters in response to the pastoral statement," said David Hains, director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. "The majority were in support."

Bishop Jugis said he received numerous personal expressions of support from lay people and clergy across the diocese where he had attended Masses, meetings or other gatherings since the statement's release.

Despite the controversy, Bishop Jugis was grateful to have such wide-ranging discussions on abortion and church teaching.

"Procured abortion is always intrinsically evil and can never be justified. It is a direct attack on an innocent human life," said Bishop Jugis. "The pope wrote in the encyclical on the Gospel of Life in 1995 that today many people have lost a sense of how grave abortion is."

"Because it is accepted in the popular mind, in behavior and in the law, people are losing the ability to distinguish between good and evil, even on so fundamental an issue as the right to life of the unborn," he said.

Faithful citizenship

Democratic Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts, who supports abortion, was the first Catholic presidential candidate to appear on a major-party ticket in 44 years.

Conflict between church teachings on abortion and human embryonic stem-cell research and Kerry's political positions on these matters led to major debate in Catholic circles over the political responsibilities of Catholics. Political analysts and media pundits devoted unprecedented energy to analyzing what difference the Catholic vote might make in 2004.

The most divisive discussion centered on whether Catholic public officials who hold political positions in conflict with fundamental church teachings should be allowed to receive Communion, and Bishops Jugis and Baker and Archbishop Donoghue weren't the only Catholic leaders to weigh in on the issue.

The issue first turned into a national debate in January when Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis told reporters he would give Kerry a blessing, not the Eucharist, if Kerry approached him for Communion while campaigning in his archdiocese.

In the months that followed, a number of other bishops weighed in, some suggesting Communion should be denied to dissenting Catholic politicians and others saying they considered it pastorally

inappropriate to use the Eucharist as a weapon in such circumstances.

In a pastoral letter in May Bishop Michael J. Sheridan of Colorado Springs, Colo., said not only are politicians out of communion with the church if they support abortion, illicit stem-cell research and euthanasia, but those who vote for such politicians also place themselves outside the church. Neither should receive Communion until they recant their positions and go to confession, he said.

In a statement issued at their June assembly, the U.S. bishops declared that politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good."

They said all Catholics are required to examine their conscience on their worthiness to receive Communion, but added that a canonical decision to deny Communion to anyone rests with each bishop in his own diocese because of "the wide range of circumstances involved in arriving at a prudential judgment" in each case.

The Catholic vote

Just nine days before the election, Kerry belatedly sought to address the controversy over how his Catholic faith relates to his values and public policy stands.

In a campaign speech in Florida he said his faith gave him "values to live by and apply to the decisions I make."

He noted that the bishops "have suggested that as a public official I must cast votes or take public positions — on issues like a woman's right to choose and stem-cell research — that carry out the tenets of the Catholic Church." He said his response is, "I love my church; I respect the bishops; but I respectfully disagree."

The Bush campaign's Web site had a special section addressed to Catholics, prominently featuring photos of the president's meeting last summer with the pope. The campaign sought membership lists of Catholic parishes and Protestant congregations to use in the campaign — a practice that brought objections from religious leaders.

The Bush strategy of focusing on weekly churchgoers succeeded. According to exit polls, Kerry won a majority of the votes among Catholics and Protestants who do not attend church regularly, but the Bush majority among weekly churchgoers, both Catholic and Protestant, gave him the winning margin in the election.

Many political commentators were surprised that the exit polls showed 22 percent of Americans ranking "moral values" as the issue that mattered the most — ahead of terrorism, the economy, Iraq, taxes, health care or education. Those who cited moral values as their chief concern voted for Bush by better than a 4-1 margin.

Although the exit polls did not seek to specify the moral values voters were concerned about, three of concern to the church were abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and same-sex marriage.

Pro-life issues

In 2004, abortion opponents suffered court defeats on the 2003, Partial Birth



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. President George W. Bush after their t
Ariz., Oct. 13. In Catholic circles, the
and the political responsibility of Catho

Abortion Ban Act as federal judges in New York, Nebraska and California declared the law unconstitutional.

But they won a victory in November when Congress adopted an omnibus appropriations bill containing the Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment. That provision protects the right of hospitals, health plans and other providers of medical care to decline to provide, pay for or refer for abortions.

In October, the U.S. bishops launched a national ad campaign, "Let's find cures we can all live with," pointing out that results of adult human stem-cell research are already helping people with Parkinson's disease and heart and nerve diseases, while embryonic stem-cell research has not resulted in any therapeutic uses. The church opposes embryonic research because it entails the destruction of human embryos.

At the international level, the United Nations abandoned an effort to develop a global convention on human cloning. It could reach a consensus on banning reproductive cloning, but member nations were too divided on whether the ban should also apply to the cloning of human embryos that would be destroyed for research or therapeutic uses.

Same-sex marriage

There were referendums in 11 states Nov. 2 and in two other states earlier in the year to add language to state constitutions that would explicitly define marriage as a union of a man and a woman. Voters approved all 13 referendums, by

FEATURE SECTION

s stories



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

of Massachusetts shakes hands with U.S. presidential candidates' debate in Tempe, the relationship between church teachings of the biggest news stories of 2004.

margins ranging from 56 percent in Oregon to 86 percent in Mississippi.

The flurry of activity to add constitutional protection to laws against same-sex marriages came in reaction to a 2003 decision by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts declaring it unconstitutional to bar same-sex couples from marrying. The court delayed the effectiveness of its decision until May 17, 2004, giving the Legislature six months to adopt the necessary conforming legislation.

On May 17 several hundred same-sex couples obtained marriage licenses across the state.

The state's bishops led an intense campaign for a state constitutional amendment that would overturn the court ruling and uphold the traditional definition of marriage. They also sought to bar legalization of civil unions.

They got a partial victory as the Legislature gave first-round approval of an amendment that would bar same-sex marriages but legalize same-sex civil unions. The proposed amendment still needs a second legislative approval before it goes to the citizenry for a vote.

The legalization of gay and lesbian marriages in Massachusetts sparked gay rights activists across the country to new efforts for similar victories in their state courts and legislatures. Illegal same-sex marriages were performed in several parts of the country, most notably in San Francisco, where the city granted marriage licenses to same-sex couples for a month before the California Supreme Court ordered it to stop.

The U.S. bishops backed a federal constitutional amendment to uphold the traditional definition of marriage and Bush declared his support for such an amendment.

In November, describing the weakening of marriage as a major social, cultural and church problem, the U.S. bishops approved a project to write a national pastoral letter on marriage that will serve as a focal point for a multifaceted pastoral plan to strengthen and support marriage.

Clergy sex abuse crisis

The U.S. clergy sexual abuse crisis erupted in January 2002 with the revelations in Boston of the church's light treatment of abuse allegations and mishandling of priests accused of molesting minors. As the church entered the third year of the scandal in 2004, it was still dealing with the many ramifications of the harm done to children over several decades.

In January, the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection and National Review Board published the results of the first sex abuse and child protection compliance audits in 191 dioceses across the country. The report, given heavy media coverage nationwide, assessed the quality and effectiveness of every diocese's policies and programs and listed more than 50 specific recommendations on ways all dioceses could improve their child protection and sexual abuse responses in the future.

At the end of February, two major independent studies, commissioned by the bishops to help them and others understand the abuse crisis, were released simultaneously.

"A Report on the Crisis in the Catholic Church in the United States" was prepared by the all-lay National Review Board that the bishops formed in 2002 to help them address the abuse crisis. The report was highly critical of a clerical culture that did not recognize the seriousness of child abuse and of the way many bishops in the past handled abuse allegations and the accused priests.

The board's study and report were only a first step that set the groundwork for a more comprehensive academic study on the issue, which is still to be conducted.

The second released study, "The Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States 1950-2002," was prepared by New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, using data provided from diocesan files across the nation.

It reported that a total of 4,392 priests, or 4 percent of those active during that period, had been accused of sexual abuse of children. It said 10,667 individuals claimed to have been abused during that period.

In the two years since the end point of that study, additional allegations have been made — most concerning abuse that occurred decades ago and most naming priests who were already named by other victims — but national statistics on those subsequent claims have not yet been compiled.

Among numerous financial settlements between dioceses and abuse victims that were reached in 2004, several were settlements with a number of victims that went into millions of dollars. The number of claims and amount of compensation sought forced three dioceses to take the unprecedented step of a church body filing for bankruptcy pro-

tection under Chapter 11 of the federal Bankruptcy Act.

The Holy Father

As he entered the 26th year of his papacy, Pope John Paul II's health continued to decline and his lack of mobility and growing difficulty in speaking became increasingly evident.

Yet he traveled to Switzerland and France, met with world leaders including Bush, presided over several canonization and beatification ceremonies and met with each contingent of U.S. bishops during the course of the year as the heads of dioceses, including Bishop Jugis, traveled to Rome in regional groups to make their official five-year "ad limina" reports on their dioceses.

In October, he launched a worldwide Year of the Eucharist to promote understanding of and devotion to the Eucharist in preparation for the October 2005 Synod of Bishops on that subject. To coincide, the Diocese of Charlotte has planned a series of events leading up to a Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 23-24, 2005.

Broadening horizons

At their November meeting, the U.S. bishops approved the first "U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults," approved Spanish-language liturgical texts for use in the United States for the celebrations of marriage, infant baptism and the "quinceanera," the customary celebration in many Hispanic cultures to mark a girl's 15th birthday.

The bishops also approved the USCCB becoming a founding member of a new national ecumenical body, Chris-

tian Churches Together in the USA. The organization is intended to bring together church leaders of the Catholic, Orthodox, historical Protestant, historical racial and ethnic, and evangelical and Pentecostal traditions, promoting greater mutual understanding and common prayer and Christian witness. It is to hold its first assembly in 2005.

The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission completed its work on a common statement, "Mary, Grace and Hope in Christ." It must be approved for publication by the appropriate authorities in each church before it will be released.

Other news

In other news of special Catholic or religious interest in 2004:

— The Vatican published a "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church," the first comprehensive compilation of official Catholic social teachings, in English and Italian.

— Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ," opened in February. It grossed \$370 million in U.S. theaters alone and its videotape/DVD release in August set a first-week sales record of 9 million units.

— Pope John Paul broke new ground on women in Vatican positions when he appointed two female theologians to the International Theological Commission and named Harvard Law School professor Mary Ann Glendon to head the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences.

Jerry Filteau of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Book explains basics to Catholics 'Surprised by Canon Law'

BY JOE KOHN

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DETROIT — Michael Trueman is a lawyer — but he'll be the first to tell you that he doesn't fit the stereotypical mold.

He doesn't drive a BMW. He doesn't wear Armani suits. And his life is nothing like a scene from "Law & Order."

It has everything to do with his specialty: Trueman is a canon lawyer for the Archdiocese of Detroit. And — just as he's not a typical lawyer — church law is a far cry from civil law.

That's why he co-wrote "Surprised by Canon Law: 150 Questions Laypeople Ask About Canon Law," a question-and-answer book designed to help Catholics understand the basics of church law — which in its raw form entails encyclopedic volumes written in heavy-duty church language.

"Christ enlivens the church with his presence," he said.

As an ecclesiastical judge, he makes recommendations and decisions on various matters of church law for Catholics in the archdiocese.

"By way of analogy, canon law provides the backbone for that presence," said Trueman. "It helps the church accomplish its mission by giving it good order and structure."

What does the average Catholic know about the church's legal system?

"The question to ask is, 'Does your average lay Catholic know that there is a Code of Canon Law?'" Trueman said. "And the answer would have to be 'no' — they don't know that there is a codified legal system that is running in the background of the church's day-to-day life."

The book — which Trueman co-wrote with Pete Vere, a former classmate and fellow canonist from St. Paul University in Ottawa — lays out the basics of church law. In simple language, it answers questions about the sacraments, church structure, the duties of Catholics and parishioners' rights.

"This was not rocket science," Trueman said. "We took license to make things simple."

Here are some of the questions:

— Why do we have a pope and what is the scope of his authority?

— What can I expect from my pastor?

— May a layperson give a homily?

— What is required of a godparent?

"It's a very helpful introduction," said Father Robert McClory, who is a canonist and chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit, and who gave approval for the printing of the book.

"It opens people up to the wide range of issues that canon law addresses and it shows how it applies to

their ongoing lives as Catholics," he said. "Catholics are naturally curious about the laws of the church, and it's helpful to have a guide that gives practical answers to questions rooted in our theology."

Apparently, lay Catholics across the country agree. Servant Books, recently acquired by St. Anthony Messenger Press, printed 5,000 copies of the book. Though the publisher will not say how many have been sold, Trueman said the book has been exceeding sales expectations.

"It's just exciting to know that people are interested in canon law," he said. "It has some importance in the lives of Catholics."

Trueman said he hopes his work can draw more people to a deeper interest in canon law. The church is in need of canon lawyers — a role traditionally held by priests that is now more frequently being filled by lay ministers.

Trueman also can speak about the effect canon law has had on his own life. He became interested in canon law while working at a parish in the Archdiocese of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Canada's east coast.

He said he felt called to a lay vocation, but realized that working at a parish would be difficult while raising a family. He had received his first taste of canon law while working with the archdiocesan tribunal in Halifax.

"I was wanting to secure for myself a future of employment and vocation in the church as a layperson," he said. "Canon law allowed me to do that."

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 9, 2005

Jan. 9, Baptism of the Lord

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
- 2) Acts 10:34-38
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Some moments speak for themselves

BY JEFF HENSLEY

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When we write our reflections for "Word to Life," it's always our aim to tell an anecdote or a personal story to show God's word in action. But sometimes the readings only lend themselves to reflection on the words themselves, as they reveal something of God's nature.

This week's readings start with the Psalms showing forth the glory and the power of God, his sheer "otherness," the grandeur that sets him apart from our experience and causes us to bend the knee to his magnificence.

The Isaiah reading brings us to the promise of a Messiah, a humble one, "upon whom I have put my spirit," as Isaiah has God saying it. This one will establish "justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching."

Deeper and more deeply, this unknowable God, this majestic and awe-inspiring God enters into human affairs

until, finally, Jesus his Son submits himself to baptism by John the Baptizer, who is extraordinarily puzzled and protests: "I should be baptized by you, yet you come to me."

And Jesus answers him that it is necessary to "fulfill all of God's commands."

When he has been baptized, Jesus comes "directly out of the water." Suddenly the sky opens and he sees the Spirit of God descend like a dove and hover over him. With that a voice from the heavens says: "This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him."

The unknowable and unreachable has chosen to lower himself in his Son to receive a blessing, a baptism at the hands of one of his creatures. It is a moment beyond our comprehension and our ability to comment. It is a truly awe-inspiring moment. It is the incarnation. It is the coming of the kingdom.

What stories can we tell from our own experience to enrich such a moment?

Questions:

Have you experienced moments of worship or moments of blessing at the hand of God that seem to defy your ability to describe them? How does sensing the awe-inspiring nature of the living God enrich your faith life? Your love for others?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2-8

Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord), Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday (Most Holy Name of Jesus),** 1 John 3:22-4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25; **Tuesday (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton),** 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; **Wednesday (St. John Neumann),** 1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52; **Thursday (Bl. André Bassette),** 1 John 4:19-5:4, Luke 4:14-22; **Friday (St. Raymond of Peñafort),** 1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16; **Saturday,** 1 John 5:14-21, John 3:22-30.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9-15

Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord), Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17; **Monday,** Hebrews 1:1-6, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday,** Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday (St. Hilary),** Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday,** Hebrews 4:1-5, 11, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday,** Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17.

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'Spanglish' worth trying



CNS PHOTO FROM SONY PICTURES

Cloris Leachman and Adam Sandler star in the comedy-drama "Spanglish," an observant and charming story about a non-English-speaking Mexican mother who takes a job as a housekeeper with an affluent California family to support herself and her young daughter whom she endeavors to keep unspoiled by superficial American values. Some sexual banter and mild profanity, an instance of rough language, and an unexplicit but rambunctious sex scene between husband and wife. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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First 'Apprentice' winner says nice guys can finish first

BY PATRICK BUTLER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — Nice guys don't have to finish last in the business world or anywhere else, "The Apprentice" winner Bill Rancic told participants at the Focus 2004 conference of the Chicago archdiocesan young adult ministry department.

Taking responsibility for your actions, being yourself, treating others with respect and staying flexible enough to change tactics without compromising your integrity can literally pay dividends in the long run, Rancic said at the November conference at Holy Name Cathedral and Vincentian-run DePaul University.

And some prayer won't hurt either, added the winner of the NBC reality TV show who started his own company to help pay his way through Loyola University.

Rancic, a Catholic, now gives back through volunteer work at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls and the cancer research foundation he and his family recently founded.

None of the cutthroats he competed against on the show made it to the final episode last April without hearing Donald Trump's trademark line, "You're fired," said Rancic.

"That (being cutthroat) only works on a very short-term basis. Take the high road. You don't have to tear someone down to pull yourself up," said the Chicago entrepreneur whose "prize" includes overseeing an \$800 million Trump Tower construction project in Chicago.

Rancic and 15 other contestants were chosen from thousands of applicants to be on "The Apprentice" in its first season. They were brought together in New York City to vie for an apprenticeship with New York billionaire developer Trump.

While he realizes what a golden opportunity it is to work alongside Trump himself for a year, Rancic remains clear on who he is and where he wants to go.

"My goal is not to be a 20-year employee of the Trump organization. At the end of the day, I'm an entrepreneur.

My goal is to learn what I can learn and go off and do things on my own," said Rancic, who got his first taste of business at age 10 when he turned his grandmother's kitchen into a makeshift restaurant — without her knowledge.

One Saturday, when Rancic was visiting his grandma, she taught him how to make pancakes. The next day, "I invited all the old ladies in the neighborhood over for breakfast. I assumed they liked the pancakes, because when they left, they all left \$5 bills under their plates," said Rancic.

He stayed in business for the next seven weekends — until his mother found \$300 in his dresser drawer.

A few years later, while trying to earn money for college, Rancic said, he and a buddy learned their most important business lesson while running a \$400-a-day business washing and waxing boats in New Buffalo, Mich.

"I created some neon orange flyers promoting our business and left them on every boat in the harbor hours before a heavy storm hit," he said.

"We failed to realize the neon orange dye would bleed when wet," said Rancic, who spent the next three days cleaning every boat for free.

It proved to be a good business move as well as the right thing to do, said Rancic. "We doubled our business. People respected us for fixing our mistake instead of walking away from the situation."

After college, he got a job but decided to go back to running his own business after seeing an employee fired after 30 years because he had become "too expensive."

"I promised myself I'd never let that happen to me," said Rancic.

Determined to find a business that would be "the right fit," Rancic eventually started a successful Cigar of the Month Club. It brought in \$150,000 in sales during the first 30 days of business.

"It's publicly traded on NASDAQ and it's a stock you may want to look at," the tireless promoter said.

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Panthers prowl pep rally at St. Patrick School

CHARLOTTE — Football fever recently spread to St. Patrick School.

The Catholic school enjoyed a Carolina Panthers pep rally that included a surprise visit from quarterback Jake Delhomme Dec. 7.

St. Patrick School competed against 500 elementary schools in the Harris Teeter "Milk, the Power Behind the Play" October milk jug cap contest. St. Patrick School turned in 10,361 milk jug caps to win the contest, which promotes healthy eating habits and exercise.

Harris Teeter teamed up with its contest sponsors, the Panthers and the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association (SUDIA), to entertain students and staff at St. Patrick School with the pep rally, featuring Sir Purr, the team mascot; two Top Cat cheerleaders and Delhomme.

The Panthers and SUDIA presented the school with checks totaling \$3,000 for physical education and cafeteria equipment. Each student also received a "3 A Day" T-shirt, a Panthers' calendar and a Panthers' blueberry milk and cookie party after the pep rally.

Harris Teeter has been a long-standing financial supporter of education and has donated more than \$5 million to schools through its Together in Education Program.



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Angela Montague, Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme and Dotty Ryan of the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association meet during the pep rally at St. Patrick School in Charlotte Dec. 7.

Student performers



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: The St. Ann School Choir performs at Carmel Country Club Dec. 14. The students gave a 90-minute performance of holiday songs during a luncheon of the women's group at the club. Below: Teacher Mary Scobey's third-grade class performed the Legend of the Poinsettia, a Mexican folktale by Tomie dePaola, for students, parents and faculty at St. Ann School in Charlotte Dec. 17. On Dec. 15, the class joined fifth-grade classes on a field trip to Park Terrace Assisted Living Home, where they performed for the residents, provided refreshments, sang carols and shared Christmas stories.



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Making music happen

Billy Jonas brings unique musical experience to Catholic students

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Musician Billy Jonas recently brought his unique style of music and comedy to Asheville Catholic School.

Jonas is a composer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who performs original songs, stories and improvisations with voice, guitar and "industrial re-percussion" — a collection of instruments made from recycled objects. He divides his time between performances for adults and schools, libraries, churches and synagogues.

Jonas utilized his major in anthropology and minor in music from Ohio's Oberlin College to entertain Asheville Catholic's students Dec. 3.

After teaching the preschool through eighth-grade students to sign the alphabet and sing African chants, Jonas showed them how to make "drums" using a large garbage can, an industrial-sized plastic container and a stand made from a child's chair and skateboard. He dem-

onstrated the various sounds that could be made by placing the "instruments" on the ground, on stands or holding them in the air.

Then two groups of students and Andrew Weatherly, who teaches drumming at the school, joined Jonas on stage to perform with the instruments.

Jonas said his favorite instrument is the audience, and getting people to sing along with him.

"Music can happen anywhere, anytime, with anyone or anything," he said.

Then Jonas helped the students create lyrics for a song of their own. A student called out "your haircut" as a topic, and the students began their work. After numerous lines, a poem resulted about a bad haircut that made Jonas "look just like his dad."

Jonas set the lyrics to music and a song was born.

In February, Jonas will return to the school to work with the fifth graders as part of the school's Artist in Residency program.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Musician Billy Jonas teaches students how to create lyrics for an original song about his haircut during a performance at Asheville Catholic School Dec. 3.

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Unplugged at St. Leo



COURTESY PHOTO BY DONNA BIRKEL

The Pittsburgh-area B.E. Taylor Group perform an acoustic concert/workshop for seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Dec. 14. The band had performed a Christmas concert featuring their unique musical style the previous evening at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem. The concert also included the St. Leo the Great Youth Choir, who performed one song. Plans are to have the group return in 2005.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns,
editorials and viewpoints

A Journey of Peace and Hope



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we continue to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season.

During this week I ask you to remember in your prayers all immigrant and refugee peoples of the world, especially those here in our own diocese, as the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates National Migration Week from Jan. 2 through Jan. 8.

The theme for this year's observance is "A Journey of Peace and Hope." Today's world is a harsh one for the more than 35 million refugees and displaced persons. Desperate poverty still forces millions to seek conditions worthy of human life far from their native lands. Peace and hope are elusive for so many of our brothers and sisters. Pope John Paul II reminds us: "The aspiration to peace is rooted in the heart of a large part of humanity. That is exactly the ardent desire that spurs people to seek every possible path to a better future for one and all."

In the refugee and immigrant of today, we are reminded of Christ and His Holy Family, who were themselves refugees and people on the move. "In the foreigner a Christian sees, not simply a neighbor, but the face of Christ Himself, who was born in a manger and fled into Egypt, where he was a foreigner, summing up and repeating in His own life the basic experience of His people. Born away from home and coming from another land, he came to dwell among us and spent His public life on the move, going through towns and villages. After His resurrection, still a foreigner and unknown, He appeared on the way to Emmaus to two of His disciples, who only recognized Him at the breaking of the bread. So Christians are followers of a man on the move 'who has nowhere to lay his head' (Mt 8:20; Lk 9:58).

"In the same way Mary, the Mother of Jesus, can be equally well contemplated as a living symbol of the woman emigrant. She gave birth to her Son away from home and was compelled to flee to Egypt. Popular devotion is right to consider Mary as the Madonna of the Way." (Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, "The love of Christ towards migrants," May 3, 2004, n. 15).

Since 1975, more than 8,000 refugees have received assistance in our diocese through the Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services. The refugee office maintains a philosophy of early employment, self-sufficiency and self-reliance to assure a smooth transition into our community. This commitment responds to the Holy Father's call to "listen to the cry for help that comes from a multitude of migrants and refugees... [and] foster, with active commitment, prospects of hope that will herald the dawn of a more open and supportive society." (Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2005, n. 4).

In his apostolic letter announcing the Year of the Eucharist, the Holy Father noted that the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations is judged by the way we respond to the many forms of poverty present in our world, among them the "struggles of immigrants" (Mane Nobiscum Domine, n. 28). The Eucharistic celebration must convert our hearts to greater love of God and neighbor. The sacrifice of Christ is a sacrifice of love, and by partaking of the sacrifice of his Body and Blood the charity of Christ must increase in our heart.

Through our care for the newcomers in our midst — by our prayer and active charity for them — let us work to make their journey in their adopted land a journey of peace and hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D.
Bishop of Charlotte

WANT TO HELP?

The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace is sponsoring the workshop, "Weaving One Heart II: Welcoming the Stranger," on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2005 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., Charlotte. For details, visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace or call (704) 370-3231.

As death toll soars, pope urges generous giving toward relief efforts

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — As the death toll from the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunamis soared past 60,000, Pope John Paul II invited international agencies and individuals to give generously toward relief efforts.

Speaking at his weekly general audience at the Vatican Dec. 29, the pope said he was especially concerned at the risk of epidemics in the wake of the catastrophic flooding, which left beaches from India to Thailand littered with corpses.

He noted that Catholic agencies were mobilizing to respond to the humanitarian crisis, and he said he would continue to pray for the victims, the injured and the homeless in the region.

"The reports coming from Asia reveal more and more the enormity of this immense catastrophe, which struck especially hard in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand," the pope told a packed audience hall.

He praised the international community for rapidly mobilizing aid efforts and said the church's charitable agencies were doing the same. The previous day, the Vatican said at least \$6 million in church aid had already been earmarked for the affected areas.

"In the Christmas spirit of these days, I invite all believers and people of good will to contribute generously to this great effort of solidarity toward populations that have been stricken and that are now exposed to the risk of epidemics," he said.

"I remain very close to them in affection and prayer, especially to those who have been injured or left

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



homeless," he said.

Authorities said more than 3 million people had lost their homes, most of them poor families living in huts near coastal areas.

The World Health Organization warned Dec. 28 of potential epidemics of diarrhea, malaria and dengue throughout the disaster areas, largely because of lack of clean water and sanitation. One official said the diseases could eventually kill as many people as the waves that struck Dec. 26.

In his main audience talk, the pope asked Christians to reflect more deeply on the meaning of Christmas and welcome Jesus into their lives.

"Let us open our hearts to him so that he may come to us and stay with us every day of the new year," he said.

His audience talk was much shorter than in the past, and he pronounced the full text. Over the Christmas season, the Vatican dropped the practice of having aides read the bulk of papal texts; instead, the pope's talks were shortened considerably.

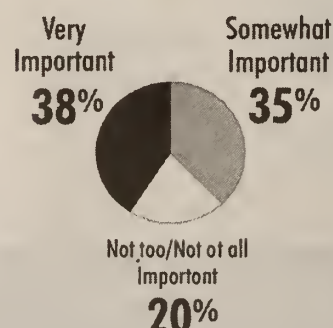
After the formal part of the audience, the pope, seated on a throne next to a Christmas tree, gave individual blessings to several hundred people, including many in wheelchairs.



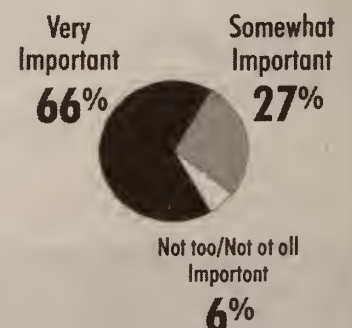
LATINO FUTURE

Study shows Latinos want to maintain own culture while assimilating into United States

How important is it for Latinos to blend into the larger society?



How important is it for Latinos to maintain their distinct cultures?



Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation

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A Christmas story for the 21st century

Tale of love endures through generations

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our Christmas tree for the past 10 years or so. And so Michael's story begins.

Michael hated Christmas. It was not the meaning of Christmas he hated, but the commercial aspects of it — over-spending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for grandma, the gifts given in desperation because you could not think of anything else.

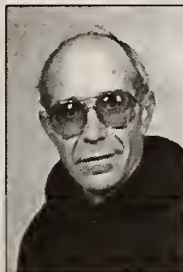
Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties, and so forth. I searched for something special just for Michael. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN
AURILIA,
OFM CAP.



took every weight class.

As each boy got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that could not acknowledge defeat. Michael, seated beside me, shook his head sadly.

"I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

Michael loved kids — all kids — and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball, and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Michael what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in successive years.

For each Christmas, I followed the

tradition — one year sending a group of mentally challenged youngsters to a hockey game; another year sending gifts to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas; and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Michael last year due to a dreaded cancer.

When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad.

This story, which my dad used to read to me every Christmas, reminds me of the real gift for a true Christmas. There may not be room for Christ in a crowded Bethlehem, but just the simple gift of shelter in your heart will make this Christmas special. It is to the whole world of men and women with their longings, their disappointments and their emptiness that he sends the supreme gift of his love — his love for the black person, the yellow person, the brown person, the red person and the white person.

Father Aurilia, Ph.D., is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

What makes a leader?

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



"We may have people in leadership positions, but we sure don't have good leaders!" When I heard this comment by a group of academicians, it reminded me of my studies on leadership.

We had reviewed an evaluation instrument that defined leadership from two perspectives: task orientation and people orientation. A person measures up as a leader if he or she accomplishes a job expeditiously and at the same time is caring of co-workers.

We also took stock of charismatic leadership. Take, for example, Martin Luther King Jr. and President John F. Kennedy, who could move enormous crowds when they spoke. But why?

One reason is that they knew how to convey inner conviction, and they were visionary.

Charismatic leaders also possess personal, attractive traits. When in their presence, you feel they know you and care about you, and that they have been "there" with you in experiencing your problems and dreams. Being photogenic helps, but charismatic leadership goes deeper than this and touches hearts.

Yet another trait of charismatic leaders is that they often have suffered deeply themselves and have stood the test.

There have been many complaints about the church's handling of sexual abuse cases. From these complaints we see that one expectation of leadership is prudence.

Prudence dictates that leaders, when confronted with difficult problems, take immediate council and endeavor to get to the essence of the problems. Once these endeavors are exhausted and a judgment is reached, he or she is decisive, moving into swift action. Even if the judgment is not to his or her liking, or is not in his or her self-interest, a leader bites the bullet and doesn't flinch.

In this case, leadership is the practice of docility, good judgment, decisiveness and courage.

When we've said everything we can about leadership, we see that it is mysterious. It raises questions: Is leadership ability innate or is it developed? How do we explain a person who may be indecisive and very uninspiring in running his or her own home, yet can inspire an army to achieve the impossible?

What makes a leader's presence felt? Is leadership determined by time, place and circumstance? In the history of the church and civilization, we have seen individuals no one ever thought could lead turn into outstanding leaders.

Perhaps the most we can say about leadership is that we know we need good leaders today, but only God knows who he will choose for this or when he will do so.

What Cardinal Newman has to do with your resolutions

If you're thinking about making a good set of New Year's resolutions, why not turn to Cardinal John Newman for some genuine inspiration?

Cardinal Newman was born in England in 1801 and was brought up in the Church of England. He studied at Oxford and became an Episcopal priest in 1825. He soon became a leader in the Oxford movement, which emphasized the church fathers as a source of spiritual truth as opposed to modern Protestantism. His sermons were controversial and profoundly influenced the entire country.

In 1841 he began doubting his membership in the Anglican Church and soon resigned his post at St. Mary's Parish in the village of Littlemore. On Oct. 9, 1845, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church.

Today he is considered one of the greatest Christian thinkers of modern times. His main contribution to the thought of his age was in the field of psychological analysis, rather than in theology itself. He applied the idea of human development to the growth of Christian doctrine and eventually was

made a cardinal of the church.

For Cardinal Newman, the incarnation was the central truth of Christianity. He died in 1890.

The following prayer of Cardinal Newman is a beautiful expression of his own purity of heart. Perhaps it will inspire your New Year's resolutions, as it did mine.

"Teach me, Lord, to be sweet and gentle in the events of life, in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied. Let me put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

"Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path; let me use it that it may mellow me, not harden and embitter me, that it may make me patient, not irritable, that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, haughty or overbearing.

"May no one be less good for having come within my influence; no one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow traveler in our jour-

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN
CATOIR
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ney toward eternal life.

"As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me whisper, from time to time, a word of love to you. May my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good and strong in its purpose of sanctity.

"Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so completely that my life may be only a radiance of yours.

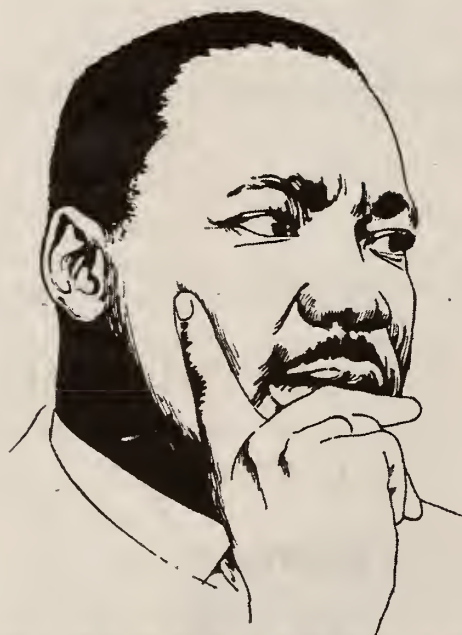
"Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see me no longer, but only Jesus."



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Year of the
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Understanding the Mass,
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adoration

| PAGE 7

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 14

Open house, open hearts

*Holy Angels
renames main
center for first
resident*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — Doctors did not expect Maria Morrow to live long beyond her first birthday.

Born medically fragile with multiple disabilities on Dec. 20, 1955, the doctors said that if she lived, she would have serious medical problems, severe mental retardation and physical disabilities.

Not only did she survive, but, 49 years later, Morrow has helped inspire an ever-growing, multi-home facility

See MORROW, page 5

BREAKING POVERTY'S CYCLE January is 'Poverty in America Awareness Month'

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — More than 34 million people live in America's 51st state.

Its residents live in the slums of New York City and Baltimore, the mountains of North Carolina and West Virginia, and the desert plains of New Mexico and Arizona.

Residents of this 51st state live in "Poverty USA" — as it is called by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

See POVERTY, page 6

Swamped by the savage sea

POPE BEGINS NEW
YEAR WITH PRAYERS
FOR VICTIMS OF
TSUNAMIS

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II ushered in the New Year with prayers for the families and victims of a Dec. 26 earthquake and devastating tsunamis that swept through parts of Asia and Africa.

The pope celebrated a special, unscheduled Mass at midnight Dec. 31 in his private chapel with intentions specifically dedicated to all those affected by the disaster, said the Vatican spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

The pope also prayed for

See TSUNAMI, page 13

More Coverage

page 13 | HOW TO HELP:
DIOCESAN RESPONSE

page 15 | POPE JOINS
EUROPE IN SILENT PRAYER



— CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A village destroyed by a tsunami is seen from a U.S. Navy helicopter flying near Banda Aceh in the northern part of the Indonesian island of Sumatra Jan. 2. A week after being swamped by massive sea waves, water was just beginning to drain off parts of Aceh's provincial capital, revealing the full extent of the horrific destruction and more bodies.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Benedictine Brother Agostino Fernandez of Belmont Abbey leads a class during the tribunal advocacy program at the Sisters of Mercy community in Belmont Oct. 16, 2004.

BONDS OF MARRIAGE

Tribunal advocacy program assists in marriage nullity cases

ADVOCATES UNDERGOING
INTENSIVE NINE-MONTH CLASS

BY DEACON GERALD
POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament of marriage, but not every marital relationship meets the established standards.

In order to better educate and assist people in dealing with the aftermath of divorce and pursuing a

See TRIBUNAL, page 9

More Coverage

page 8 | MARRIAGE
NULLITY PROCESS
IN THE DIOCESE OF
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Around the Diocese

Music in Mooresville;
parishioners enjoy Christmas feast

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Culture Watch

'Best Catholic Writing'; negative
religion treatment on TV

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Perspectives

Resolutions for the right
reasons; wave-less victims

| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

COURAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HEISEY, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Harrisburg, Pa., administers the sacrament of confirmation to 19-year-old Pfc. Nate Smith in the chapel of the bishop's residence in Harrisburg Dec. 27. Smith completed his Army training Dec. 17 at Fort Stewart in Georgia, and spent Christmas with his parents, before his early January deployment to Iraq.

Bishop confirms soldier before his deployment to Iraq

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Just before being deployed to Iraq, 19-year-old Pfc. Nate Smith received the sacrament of confirmation from Harrisburg Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in a small, private Mass in the chapel at the bishop's residence Dec. 27.

Smith, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lancaster, completed his Army training Dec. 17 at Fort Stewart in Georgia, and spent a Christmas holiday with his parents before his January deployment.

"This confirmation means a lot to me," he said as he sat with his parents and Father Michael Grab, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, in the bishop's living room prior to the Mass.

"I was surprised and grateful when I heard he was going to do this for me," said Smith.

Smith was born and raised in California, where Catholics are typically confirmed during their last year of high school, but he missed receiving the sacrament and enlisted in the Army.

Smith's family moved to Pennsylvania in 2003. When their son was notified of his deployment, Smith's parents called Father Grab to try to arrange confirmation.

"I've always looked forward to be-

ing confirmed, and I've always told my mom I couldn't wait for it to happen," Smith said. "When I went into the military, I knew I wanted to be confirmed before I was deployed."

A week after Bishop Rhoades' Dec. 9 ordination as bishop of Harrisburg, Father Grab phoned the bishop to tell him about Smith's situation.

"I was pretty much expecting that the bishop would delegate me to do the confirmation because of the busyness of his schedule, but he offered to do it here in his chapel," Father Grab said.

Smith was Bishop Rhoades' first confirmation as bishop. When the bishop learned of Smith's sniper duties in Iraq, he promised to keep him in his prayers.

"You entered the Army after the war began, and that shows your courage," the bishop told him. "Courage is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit you'll receive today."

The bishop said the confirmation of the young soldier during the Christmas season was a spiritually moving ceremony.

"This young man is obviously a man of faith," he said. "I could see it in his eyes and in talking to him that this confirmation was very important to him."

Florida appeals court rejects pleas to reopen case of Terri Schiavo

LAKELAND, Fla. (CNS) — The 2nd District Court of Appeals in Lakeland Dec. 29 denied an appeal from the parents of Terri Schindler Schiavo to reopen the severely brain-damaged woman's case, based upon statements by Pope John Paul II against euthanasia.

Schiavo, 41, has been impaired for the past 14 years and lives in a Clearwater nursing home. She can breathe on her own but requires nutrition and hydration through a feeding tube.

Her husband, Michael, who now has two children by another woman, says Terri would want the feeding tube removed. Her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, say that she would want to live, in part because of her Catholic beliefs.

Schiavo's parents appealed a 2004 ruling by the Florida Supreme Court overturning a 2003 law that mandated

the reinsertion of a feeding tube to keep Schiavo alive.

In the unanimous decision last year, the court said the law — dubbed "Terri's Law" — violated the state constitution's requirement of separation of powers by allowing the state Legislature and the governor to overturn a court decision.

Schiavo's parents appealed the law on the basis of the pope's position against euthanasia and that starving their daughter to death would violate her religious freedom. They say their daughter would agree with the church's position that providing food and water, even by artificial means, was "moral and obligatory."

The Schindlers can ask the appeals court to rehear the motion or can appeal the decision to the Florida Supreme Court. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has already asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Catholics Returning Home*, a program for non-practicing or part-time Catholics, will be offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 22. Topics will include The Catholic Church Today — Changes Since Vatican II; The Creed — What Catholics Believe; The Mass — Walk Through & Explanations; Confession/Reconciliation; and Catholic Spirituality (Scripted vs. Charismatic Prayer). All meetings will include a question-and-answer session. For more information, contact Ed Powers at (704) 553-7273.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will host the *Newman Singers in Concert* Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. The Newman Singers are a group of 20 college students from Iowa, who will perform contemporary Christian music. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will host a *Mass for the Unborn*, Jan. 16 at 2:30 p.m., in anticipation for the National March for Life in Washington, DC the following week. For details, call (704) 846-0701.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, will host a *Pro-Life Rosary and Benediction* Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for a beautiful night of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the cathedral. For details, call (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will be the featured speaker at the *Women's Talk* at St. Vincent Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover will teach a series of classes on the *History of the Catholic Church* at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Classes will meet Fridays at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. To register, call Sister Grover at (704) 545-1224.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the

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FROM THE VATICAN

Coffee bar on roof of St. Peter's Basilica is above the competition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The neighborhood around St. Peter's Square is filled with coffee bars, but the bar at St. Peter's Basilica is above the competition.

Tourists in need of coffee, drinks or ice cream can enjoy their refreshments on the roof of St. Peter's Basilica, high above the square, at prices somewhat lower than those charged in Rome's tourist-filled neighborhoods.

However, unlike the typical Italian coffee bar, the new refreshment point does not sell beer, wine or other alcoholic beverages.

"Especially in the summer, it is very hot up there, and people who have climbed 349 steps up to the top of the dome and 349 steps back down to the roof need something to drink," said Pier Carlo Visconti, director of administration for the basilica.

"We wanted to offer refreshments,

but it did not seem right to sell alcoholic beverages," he said.

The coffee bar opened for Easter 2004; the Vatican rents the space to a private caterer.

The bar is located in the same building as the souvenir shop operated by the Disciples of the Divine Master. The sisters have sold rosaries and religious gifts on the rooftop for more than 50 years.

The space occupied by the refreshment stand was an office until 1999; it was vacated when engineers and technicians cleaning and restoring the facade of St. Peter's completed their work.

While the coffee and cappuccino are served in ceramic cups, the cold drinks are served in plastic, requiring the strategic placement of garbage cans on the rooftop.

"So far, we have not had a problem with the garbage," Visconti said.

second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Walt (704) 535-7723.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A chartered bus will leave from Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., in Belmont at 7 a.m. Jan. 15 and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., in Charlotte at 7:30 a.m. to go to the *Rally and March for Life* in Raleigh. For more information, contact Jan Rogers (704) 825-9600.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, will host *Landings*, an outreach program for those who have left the Catholic Church and are thinking of returning. Landings consists of 10 sessions during which small faith sharing groups consisting of active laypeople from the parish gather to listen and help support those who are on their faith journey back. Landings will meet Monday evenings, Jan. 10-March 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating should call Bonnie Tamrack, at (828) 994-2233.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more informa-

tion, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalcs@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St. will hold a Stewardship Fair Jan. 15-16. We welcome everyone to join us in the Salesian Hall following the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass and between the 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. Masses on Sunday. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 996-5109.

OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The annual March for Life will take place Jan. 24 in the nation's capital. For more information, call the diocesan respect life office at (704) 370-3229.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican official: Church always needed proof of saint's intercession

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — From the earliest days, the Catholic Church would declare someone a saint only when there was a widespread reputation of holiness and evidence that favors were granted through the person's intercession, Msgr. Robert Sarno said.

Msgr. Sarno, of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said, "Graces, favors and miracles were always part of the process," although the number and type of favors and the process for verifying them has changed throughout the centuries.

"Whether a miracle should be required for beatification and canonization has been a matter of continuing theological discussion," he said Jan. 3, adding that he knows of no recent formal proposals to change the current practice.

While the current requirements of one miracle for beatification and another for canonization are matters of church law, which can change, the church always has insisted that its formally proclaimed saints "are worthy of imitation and have interceded" with God to answer the prayers of the faithful, he said.

The church, he said, needs "some indication of divine confirmation that the person is in heaven."

The question of the miracle require-

ment was raised after Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, former secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said that his former boss, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, once discussed the possibility of removing the requirement of a miracle for beatification and for canonization.

If the proposal had gone forward, Cardinal Bertone said, "it is certain that a priest like Giuseppe Frassinetti would be a saint already."

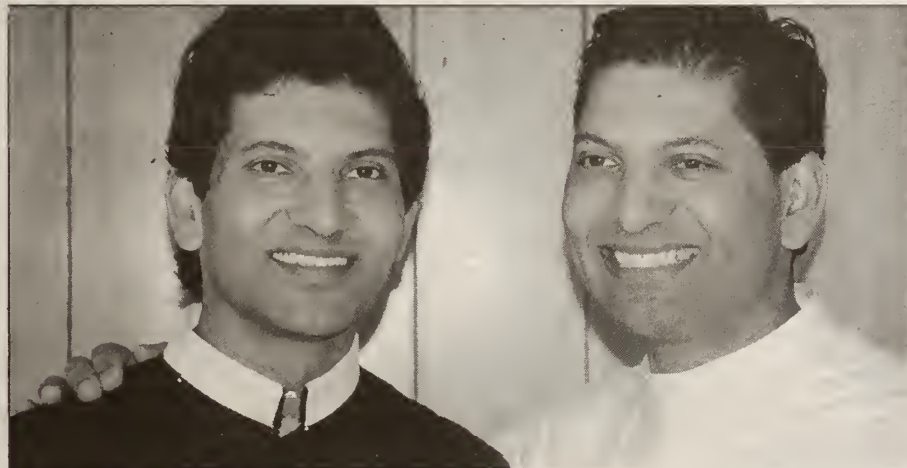
The beatification of Father Frassinetti, a Genoa pastor, has been delayed because no miracle attributed to his intercession has been approved.

In the Dec. 26 edition of its weekly newspaper, the Archdiocese of Genoa said Cardinal Bertone had emphasized that Cardinal Ratzinger's suggestion was "a hypothesis," not a formal proposal.

In September 2003, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said miracles are important, especially because a canonization involves a papal declaration that the candidate is with God in heaven.

"Miracles serve as a confirmation from on high that the human judgment of the holiness of a servant of God is not wrong," he said.

Twin fathers



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS PARKER, CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Fathers Ivan and Wayne Dawson, 41-year-old identical twins born in Cape Town, South Africa, reunite in Portland, Ore., in November. The brothers both minister in the United States and are believed to be one of only seven sets of identical twins who are Catholic priests. Father Ivan, a Redemptorist, was ordained in 1994, Father Wayne four years later.

Pope names Italian bishop to head Pontifical Academy for Life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Italian Bishop Elio Sgreccia, founding director of a Rome bioethics center, as the new president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Bishop Sgreccia, 76, had served as vice president of the academy since Pope John Paul established the body in 1994 to promote scientific studies related to the promotion and defense of human life from conception to natural death.

The Italian bishop succeeds Dr. Juan Vial Correa, a physician, biologist

and rector of the Catholic University of Santiago, Chile, who presided over the academy for 10 years.

In the same Jan. 3 announcement, Pope John Paul had appointed Msgr. Ignacio Carrasco de Paula to be chancellor of the academy.

Msgr. Carrasco, a member of the academy and a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei, is a professor of bioethics in the faculty of medicine and surgery at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 11 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center

Jan. 15 — 1 p.m.
Rally for Life
Raleigh, N.C.

Jan. 13
Parish Catechetical Leaders' Retreat
Catholic Conference Center

Music in Mooresville

St. Therese Church hosting upcoming concert

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church in Mooresville is hosting a concert in January.

The concert, featuring the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, will be held Jan. 19. The event, which is free and open to the public, is the second concert to be held at St. Therese Church this month — the parish hosted a performance by the Concert Choir of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Jan. 5.

The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir is under the direction of Ivory Coleman. According to Father Cecile Tice, former pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church, the only African-American parish in Charlotte, an aspect of the parish's mission was to blend African American

culture with Catholicism. With that in mind, and using the African principles of Nia (purpose) and Imani (faith), the parish established Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir in 1980.

The music ministry of St. Therese Church, under the leadership of Phil Haigler, director of parish music ministries, invites all people to attend the concert. The programs will be full of excitement, energy and inspiration.

WANT TO GO?

The free concert will be held at St. Therese Church in Mooresville, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19. For more information, contact Phil Haigler at (704) 664-3992.

A buffet of Christmas spirit



COURTESY PHOTO

People line up to fill their plates during the 15th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle Dec. 25. Organizers considered the event, sponsored by Our Lady of the Annunciation church and other area churches, as a success, with volunteers serving 910 free meals, including 330 carryout meals, to fellow parishioners and other members of the community.

Since 1980, local churches and volunteers throughout Stanly County have partnered to provide a rewarding Christmas dinner to the community.

Seminarian admitted to candidacy



COURTESY PHOTO

Alejandro Ayala (second from right) of Asheville was one of eight seminarians at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., to be admitted to candidacy for the priesthood by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt (center) of Wheeling-Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 19. Also pictured is (from left) Benedictine Archabbot Douglas R. Nowicki, chancellor; Father David Brzoska, director of pastoral formation and Hispanic ministries at the seminar and former priest in the Diocese of Charlotte; and Benedictine Father Kurt Belsole, seminary rector.

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—James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review

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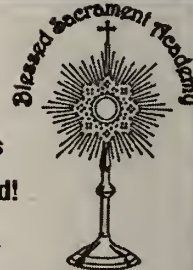
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"YES!" Don't miss it!

Begin a Catholic teen-to-teen Bible-sharing group in your parish, school, or organization.



On Saturday, January 29, 2005 at Mc Carthy Center, Belmont NC the Sisters of Mercy and Gastonia Vicariate will be hosting a

"YES! Congress on the Bible"

to train teen peer leaders and adult mentors on establishing a teen-to-teen Bible-sharing group in their parish, school, or organization.

"YES! Youth Engaging Scripture" enables young people to come together around the word of God and collectively see direction in their lives by using the process of *lectio divina*. Through the "YES! Congress on the Bible," young people learn how to grow together in their understanding of the Bible and its application to everyday life.

Registration deadline: January 16

Cost: \$15 per person

For more information on the "YES! Congress on the Bible," contact:

Sr. Carolyn Mary Coll, RSM @ 704 813 1425 or Dennis Teall Fleming @ 704 825 9600 x 26

Holy Angels renames center for first resident

MORROW, from page 1

dedicated to the care, education and development of children with mental retardation and other disabilities.

As part of its open house Dec. 20, Holy Angels in Belmont celebrated a number of special events, with Morrow at the center of it all. The private, nonprofit facility founded by the Sisters of Mercy renamed its Main Center the Maria Morrow Center in honor of the first Holy Angels resident on her 49th birthday.

The facility also dedicated a garden in memory of Mother Mary Benignus Hoban, president emeritus; Mercy Sister Marie Patrice Manley, Holy Angels foundress; and all the children who have been served and the children who will be served in the years to come at Holy Angels.

It was nearly 50 years ago that Morrow's mother, who worked in a textile mill in Belmont, brought her daughter to a day care center under the direction of Sister Manley. When Morrow became seriously ill, her

mother asked Sister Manley and the other sisters to care for her.

Morrow began to thrive with the sisters' attention and medical care, and she grew and developed far better than expected. Other parents of children with disabilities and mental retardation began to seek help from the Sisters of Mercy, and the sisters set up the home that eventually became Holy Angels.

As columnists began writing about Morrow and the Sisters of Mercy, more children and support came to the Sisters of Mercy. On Oct. 2, 1961, the feast of the Guardian Angel, a new wing was dedicated to assisting children. In 1972, the Main Center was opened.

Today, Holy Angels employs about 250 people and provides programs and services to 70 children and adults. Residents range in age from 6 months to 62 years of age. The facility includes four Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR) group homes and two supported-living homes, as well as an on-site day care center.

And Morrow has seen it grow.

Doctors had discovered she did not have mental retardation. She now works as a receptionist at the Holy



COURTESY PHOTO

Larry Sprinkle, weather anchor for WCNC 6News in Charlotte, presents a plaque to Maria Morrow, the first resident of Holy Angels in Belmont, during an open house ceremony Dec. 20. As part of the ceremony, the facility's Main Center was renamed in honor of Morrow. The plaque hangs in the new Morrow Center.

Angels Specialized Community Residential Center and also helps out at Cherubs Candy Bouquets, Holy Angels' vocational program in downtown Belmont.

And Holy Angels is still growing.

During the open house, Holy Angels celebrated the official kickoff of construction on a new ICFMR group home. In addition to the 15-bed home, seven beds will be added to the current Belhaven eight-bed ICFMR home.

Residents who currently live in the Holy Angels Specialized Residential Community Center will move into the new group home, which will be close to the Maria Morrow Center so those residents who have severe and profound mental retardation, physical disabilities and complex medical conditions can be near needed medical and healthcare resources.

"I am pleased that the construc-

tion has begun on this new home," said Regina Moody, president and CEO of Holy Angels. "It means a great deal to the families and friends of those residents who will now be able to continue making their home at Holy Angels."

The new home will include bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room and living room and space for recreation, therapy and day programs. Funding sources for the \$3.5 million project will include grants and private donors.

Plans are to complete the seven-bed addition to Belhaven by early spring, with construction for the new home to be completed by Holy Angels' 50th anniversary celebration in December 2005.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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January focuses on poverty awareness in America

POVERTY, from page 1

(CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. bishops.

This month, which is Poverty in America Awareness Month, CCHD launches its fifth national awareness campaign. By focusing on poverty during January, CCHD hopes to remind Americans early each year that poverty remains very much a part of American life and that they can do something to help.

As part of their efforts, CCHD will release a new public opinion survey and public education campaign designed to raise awareness about poverty, educate the public to be sensitive to the needs of those living in poverty, and hold activities in Catholic schools and public settings to keep poverty in the minds of Americans.

"Even now, in this land of freedom and plenty, 34.6 million people are working to liberate themselves from poverty, struggling to afford the very basics — food, shelter, clothing, childcare and medical care," said Father Robert Vitillo, executive director of CCHD.

In September 2004, Father Vitillo spent four days in the Diocese of Charlotte visiting projects funded in part by CCHD.

The national poverty level rose 4 percent in 2003, equaling 1.3 million more people who are now poor, with North Carolina ranking third among the top 10 states with the greatest increase in poverty from 2002 to 2003. The state ranks 10th among the top 10 states with the highest poverty rate in the nation for 2002-2003.

While the White House's Office of Management and Budget defines the average poverty threshold as \$18,810 for a family of four, a recent CCHD

study showed that most Americans believe it takes nearly twice that amount (\$35,000) to adequately house, clothe and feed a family of four.

Breaking the U.S. cycle of poverty is a primary concern for the U.S. bishops, and their mission is to address its root causes of poverty.

"CCHD was a program originally designed to alleviate poverty," said Terri Jarina, program director for parish social ministry for the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Over time, the U.S. bishops realized poverty is a bigger problem than originally thought, and their focus shifted to breaking the cycle of poverty," she said.

CCHD supports local groups involved in creating jobs, improving neighborhoods, training adults for employment at a living wage and raising leaders for the future.

"These programs form poor people into leaders in the community," said Father Vitillo. "CCHD works with the poor, rather than for the poor."

CCHD's success is due in large part to Catholic parishioners whose contributions to the annual appeal over the years have made meeting CCHD's objectives possible.

"This money helps thousands of people through the three national and 20 local grants the collection helped to fund in 2003," said Jarina.

Jarina encourages people in the Diocese of Charlotte to help others escape Poverty USA.

WANT MORE INFO?

Please read Terri Jarina's column on page 15. Also, online: Poverty USA at www.povertyusa.org; Catholic Campaign for Human Development: www.usccb.org/CCHD

Mercy Sister Michael Reinhard dies at 89

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Michael Reinhard, 89, a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of Dallas, died Dec. 30, 2004 at Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel with burial at Belmont Abbey Cemetery Jan. 4.

The former Glenn Reinhard was born Dec. 9, 1915, in Cumberland, Md. She entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 8, 1943. She pronounced her vows on March 12, 1946 and was in her 61st year as a Sister of Mercy.

Sister Reinhard graduated from Allegany High School in Cumberland, Md. She received a bachelor's degree in English from College Misericordia in Dallas, Pa., in 1946; a master's degree in English from Fordham University in Bronx, N.Y., in 1954; and a master's in history from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana in 1962.

Sister Reinhard taught in elementary and secondary schools of the dioceses of Scranton, Pa., and Brooklyn and Rockville Centre, N.Y. She served on the faculties of College Misericordia in Dallas, Pa., for nine years and at Sacred Heart College in Belmont for 14 years. She also served as dean of women at College Misericordia, and on the graduate faculty at St. Mary's College in Scranton, Pa.



Mercy Sister Michael Reinhard

She served on the faculty and as the chairperson of the history department at Charlotte Latin School in Charlotte for five years. From 1992 until her retirement, she served as a substitute teacher in the Belmont public school system.

Sister Reinhard was in residence at Sacred Heart Convent since 1968 and in December 1999 moved to Marian Center, on the Sacred Heart campus, where she remained until her death.

Sister Reinhard is survived by the Sisters of Mercy of Dallas and North Carolina; her sister, her nephews and nieces, and her sisters-in-law.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy of Dallas, P.O. Box 369, Dallas, PA 18612-0369, or to the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012-4805.



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Monday, January 24th:

10:30 am — Mass at National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, main altar; principal celebrant: Bishop Peter J. Jugis

Noon — Rally and March for Life on the Ellipse

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Extending Communion in a 'lasting way'

Booklet explains, encourages eucharistic adoration

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops' Committee on Liturgy has issued a resource booklet encouraging and explaining adoration of the Eucharist outside Mass.

Titled "Thirty-One Questions on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament," the 41-page booklet highlights the importance of eucharistic adoration and its relation to the Mass. It explains the difference between adoration of the Eucharist in the tabernacle and the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Appendixes include the texts of church regulations on worship of the

parish, the universal church, and extend our charity to the whole world because we know that there are members of Christ everywhere."

It points out that church law recommends an extended solemn exposition and adoration of the Eucharist annually in all churches and oratories.

In an appendix it cites church regulations that say an extended solemn exposition requires the consent of the local bishop and should take place "only if suitable numbers of the faithful are expected to be present." A common form of extended exposition in parishes is the Forty Hours devotion.

The booklet also points out that the exposition of the Eucharist is a "public celebration" accompanied by liturgical rites, not something done simply for private devotion. Adoration can take place before the Eucharist whether it is exposed in a monstrance or ciborium or reposed in the tabernacle, it says.

"Eucharistic adoration is prayer before the Blessed Sacrament housed within the tabernacle. Eucharistic exposition is the ritual by which the Blessed Sacrament is displayed outside the tabernacle in a monstrance or ciborium for public veneration by the faithful," it says.

"What distinguishes the reverence given to the exposed sacrament from adoration before the tabernacle is the communal nature of reverence to the exposed sacrament," it adds.

It notes that perpetual adoration of the Eucharist, a practice that has become popular in a number of U.S. parishes in recent years, does not require perpetual exposition of the Eucharist. When a parish wishes to have the Eucharist exposed for an extended period of time, this is subject to the approval of the local bishop and regulations he may establish to govern the practice, it says.

Editor's Note: "Thirty-One Questions on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament" can be ordered by phone at: (800) 235-8722; by fax at: (202) 722-8709; or online at: www.usccb.org.



Eucharist outside Mass, the reservation and exposition of the Eucharist, eucharistic processions and eucharistic congresses.

"Eucharistic adoration extends holy Communion in a lasting way and prepares us to participate more fully in the celebration of the eucharistic mystery," the booklet says.

"Pope John Paul II calls worship of the most holy Eucharist outside Mass 'an important daily practice (that) becomes an inexhaustible source of holiness,'" the booklet adds.

It highlights the social dimension of eucharistic adoration as well, quoting the words of Pope Paul VI: "Devotion to the divine Eucharist exerts a great influence upon the soul in the direction of fostering a 'social' love, in which we put the common good ahead of private good, take up the cause of the community, the

According to the mode of the receiver

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 2

Last week, we recognized that God still commands his people to "keep holy the Sabbath." As Christians, we do so by fulfilling the first precept of the Catholic Church: attending Mass every Sunday and holy days of obligation.

By participating in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, we hope to attain the two-fold purpose or goal of the Mass: 1) to give glory to God by praising, adoring and worshipping the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit, and 2) receiving the fruits of Christ's passion, death and resurrection in Holy Communion.

In short, we come to Mass prepared to give and receive: the two reciprocal parts of any relationship of love. And like any relationship, our relationship with God, expressed so fully and completely through the Mass, requires time, effort, desire and dedication, indeed, preparation, in order to receive what God has prepared. Therefore it is essential to spend a few moments considering our need to prepare for Mass.

Throughout the Middle Ages, there was a philosophical principle that was so common that its verity was simply understood and taken for granted: "What is received is received according to the mode of the receiver." What does that mean in everyday language?

Suppose two friends, both musicians, attend the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. One of them plays the drums in a garage rock band. The other musician plays the cello in a local string quartet. Considering that both are listening to the same symphony and the same music, which of these two do you think will receive more from the performance?

Or suppose there are two identical windows in the same bedroom. One of them is dirty both inside and outside. The other window is clean and translucent. Given that the sun is shining outside, which window will allow more light to pass through and brighten the room?

Both examples demonstrate the principle that what is received is received according to the mode of the receiver. In every case, there is an objective reality, whether it is the beautiful music of a symphony or the light of the sun. Each passes through the receiver differently, depending upon the mode or receptivity or disposition of the receiver.

Similarly, there is an objective reality, an objective truth, in the Mass — that by divine power, through the instrumentation of the priest, bread and wine are changed into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. This truth does not depend upon individual belief, just as the fact that the sky is blue is independent of individual belief. However, the graces that we receive from this sacrament depend upon our receptivity, our disposition, our readiness to receive them.

We receive as much grace as we are prepared to receive. Grace is not magic. Grace is not automatic. Going to Mass is not at all like using a vending machine: I

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



show up, put a little money in the collection and receive my holy Communion. No. This is not the kind of giving and receiving that is characteristic of loving relationships.

Since the graces that I receive depend upon my receptivity, my disposition, my readiness, how should I prepare for Mass? First, I must be in a state of grace to receive holy Communion. That does not mean that I have to be perfect, but I must not be conscious of any mortal sins. If a person is conscious of lying or stealing or cheating or fornicating, he or she must first go to the sacrament of reconciliation before he can be admitted to holy Communion.

If he or she receives Communion conscious of mortal sins, the person commits a further sin of sacrilege. And so, as St. Paul states in his first letter to the Corinthians: "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (I Cor. 11:27).

On the other hand, if we receive worthily, in a state of grace, we receive immense graces, numerous blessings — we receive the gift of our redemption. The light of God's grace can only penetrate into the soul insofar as the soul is purified.

Besides approaching the sacred mysteries in a state of grace, we can also prepare for the holy sacrifice of the Mass with prayer. Prayer establishes the ongoing communication that we need to give and receive during the Mass. The holy exchange of gifts in the Mass is accomplished through the exercise of prayer, through speaking to God and listening to him. And so, this requires us to arrive early, with adequate time to prepare our souls for the Mass.

And so, in order to arrive at our two-fold goal of giving God due worship and receiving the gift of our redemption, we must prepare our souls adequately to receive his grace, which is not magic or automatic. No, what is received is received according to the mode of the receiver. We must develop our ear for the beautiful harmony of prayer; we must keep the window of our soul clean to allow God's love and grace to transform us with our cooperation.

My next column will continue our foundational material on the Mass by considering the Mass as a sacred ritual.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincoln.



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Declaration of marriage nullity in the Diocese of Charlotte

Process governed by canon law

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Each year in the United States, 2 million couples walk down the aisle to be united in marriage. Of these, approximately half will see their union end in divorce.

The Catholic Church teaches that Christ instituted the sacrament of marriage. In doing so he enhanced the dignity of an institution already made holy in God's creation. Therefore, marriage is an enduring and exclusive partnership in which husband and wife establish a loving and life-giving relationship.

According to the Tribunal Office of the Diocese of Charlotte, it is for this reason the church views divorce seriously. The church does not accept that divorce can sever the actual bond of a valid marriage.

Not every marital relationship meets the standard that Christ established for marriage. While a marriage relationship may exist between the parties and have certain consequences, it is not necessarily the type of marriage bond that can be broken only by the death of one of the parties.

The nature of marriage nullity

The process of marriage nullity determines whether an indissoluble marriage bond was created when a man and woman entered their marriage. It must be proved clearly that this bond was not established in order to declare the marriage null. This proof must focus on grounds of nullity as recognized by church law and must apply to the marriage from its very beginning.

According to Dominican Father W. Becket Soule, a judge for the Tribunal Office of the Diocese of Charlotte, there are three reasons a "true and valid marriage" did not exist. The first is a "lack or defect in 'canonical form'" such as marriage before a justice of the peace or Protestant minister without the permission of the diocesan bishop.

Another cause for nullity is a pre-existing impediment, such as age, close family relationship or remarriage during the lifetime of a previous spouse.

Finally, marriage nullity may be granted because there was "a defect in the consent between the partners." For example, a bride and groom may not have fully accepted and understood the lifelong commitment of marriage. This is the most significant reason cited in most cases.

The diocesan tribunal, or church court, handles the marriage nullity process, working under a set of procedures and laws established as part of the universal law of the church.

Marriage nullity procedures

In the most common marriage nullity procedure, the first step for a petitioner — the person requesting the marriage nullity — is to approach the local parish priest or pastoral assistant, who will assist the petitioner in completing a preliminary questionnaire for submission to the tribunal. This questionnaire provides the tribunal staff with an overview of the marriage.

The tribunal contacts the other party to the marriage, the "respondent." The respondent's cooperation is not essential and, in the event of non-cooperation, the case can proceed, recognizing that the grounds of the case must still be proved.

In the ordinary course of events, both the petitioner and the respondent will be given the opportunity to review each other's written testimony, as well as any statements by witnesses not protected by the seal of confidentiality.

The length of time involved varies from case to case and depends on many factors. Both the petitioner and the respondent are encouraged not to plan a future marriage until the entire tribunal process is complete and the final decision rendered.

A favorable decision in the diocesan marriage tribunal must be reviewed by the Court of Appeal of the Province of Atlanta. This requires additional time, which may be substantial depending on the kind of case.

The Diocese subsidizes the tribunal. The diocese incurs costs of approximately \$1,000 in processing a case. The petitioner is asked to assume

a portion of the cost, which involves ordinary office expenses, telephone calls, fees for psychiatric experts, appellate court costs and other expenses.

Points to consider

Careful consideration should be given to the following points:

— A declaration of nullity by the church has no civil effects in the United States. It does not, therefore, affect rights in regard to matters such as property, inheritance, visitation of children, and the like. It has no effect on any children born of the union, in regard to rights or legitimacy, either in secular law or in church law.

— All tribunal matters are guarded by strict and sacred confidence.

— A tribunal process exists for church purposes only. No information can be transferred to or have any effect in any civil process.

— The diocesan tribunal accepts cases or petitions for review only after the civil divorce process has been completed.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information regarding the marriage nullity process, contact the Tribunal Office of the Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3342 or visit <http://www.usccb.org/laity/marriage>.

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'Processes such as those offered by the tribunal can be pathways of healing and closure.'

Advocates to assist in marriage nullity process

TRIBUNAL, from page 1

marriage nullity process, the Diocese of Charlotte initiated a tribunal advocacy program. Thirty-five advocates, both deacons and laity, from parishes around the diocese were recommended by their pastors to participate in the program.

"This is the first time the Diocese of Charlotte has attempted to incorporate the advocacy program into the tribunal," said Mercy Sister Jeanne Margaret McNally, a Defender of the Bond for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The program is geared to provide more in-field contact with both the petitioners and the respondents," said Father John Putnam, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"The advocates will provide more personal contact and better instruction for the cases, which will benefit

everyone all the way around," he said.

The advocates will assist the tribunal in dealing with people interested in pursuing a process for marriage nullity. In order to do so, the advocates are undergoing intensive classroom instruction one day a month from September through June. Topics of study include the theology of marriage, human sciences, an overview of canon law, the canonical process, jurisprudence (dealing with the sanctity of marriage), impediments and canonical form.

Yet, at all times, the sanctity of marriage must be preserved.

"The diocesan tribunal has the responsibility to uphold the indissolubility of the marriage covenant," said Father Putnam. "This is a true ministry of the Catholic Church, and an exercise of pastoral care."

"Anger and hurt often are part of the experience of divorce. Processes such as those offered by the tribunal can be pathways of healing and closure," he said.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Father John Putnam, judicial vicar, and Suzanne Sherill, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, talk during a training class for the tribunal advocacy program at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Nov. 20, 2004.

"I felt I could help the process along by donating time, stewardship and talent," said Richard Borsuk, a parishioner of St. James Church in Concord who volunteered for the advocacy program.

"(My wife and I) see the effects on people who are trying to organize their lives after divorce," said Borsuk. "Some of these problems can't be easily resolved."

"There was a considerable amount of time required to put this program together, but the need for the advocacy program outweighed time and management constraints," said Sister McNally.

"We hope that one of the results of this program will be that the cases will be better instructed and that the judges will have someone to call on to get additional information for the process," she said.

Once the advocates complete their training in May, they will be recommended for canonical appointments by Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

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Bridges to Prosperity, Inc. was founded in March 2001, when Ken Frantz, saw a photo taken in National Geographic Magazine that moved him to action. Prior to founding Bridges to Prosperity, Mr. Frantz had been in the construction business for over 30 years. Today he commits himself full-time to the mission and work of Bridges to Prosperity.

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Culture Watch

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'Best Catholic Writing' gets readers thinking

Numerous topics by Catholic writers explored in new book

REVIEWED BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It's a risky title: "Best Catholic Writing." Editor Brian Doyle doesn't debate what "best" means in his introduction, but he does explain what "Catholic writing" is. It may be by Catholics, or for Catholics, or of Catholics, but it is also "catholic" because, "Everything, seen with a clear enough eye, is meat for the Catholic mind."

And meaty it is. Readers might recognize the names of Andrew Greeley, Kathleen Norris or Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, but most of the writers are commercial unknowns. Who has written is less important than what they have written.

Few readers know writer Robert T. Reilly, of Omaha, Neb., but many will relate to his story about caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. He writes, "I build my days around visits to her, not as corporal works of mercy, but as one of the joys of marriage. I love who she was, but I also love who she is."

Jesuit Father Gary Smith might be better known among the poor in the Portland, Ore., and in Uganda than among readers. But readers of "The Leper: Robert's Story" will find it impossible not to see Jesus in this deathbed scene described by Father Smith:

"O Robert, my man, my man, O Robert.' And then I knelt at the side of his bed and wept and wept. The paradox is that, in the end, the little guy had been stripped of everything but was surrounded by the dearest of his possessions, his friends."

And Christopher de Vinck's reflections on the late TV icon Fred Rogers may get readers thinking, talking, even writing, about their own Mr. Rogers memories.

Really, that's what this volume does. It gets readers thinking, whether the topic is the sexual abuse of children by clergy, steps in faith formation or wondering why God leads people to do certain things. It inspires readers to examine their own lives, maybe to commit or recommit themselves to living the Gospel.

Most of the writing in this collection comes from national publications, such as *Commonweal*, *U.S. Catholic* and *National Catholic Reporter*. None of the selections are from writers at diocesan newspapers,

which tend to be local in focus, although they had an opportunity to submit work. And they will for future volumes.

Doyle, who is the editor of *Portland* magazine, published by the University of Portland, Oregon's Catholic university affiliated with the Congregation of Holy Cross, has extended a call for submissions for the 2005 "Best Catholic Writing."

In any collection not everyone will like every topic or style. There are several pieces that address the sexual abuse scandal — the topic that defined U.S. Catholicism in the last couple years. Yet some readers might have heard, read and seen enough of the topic with no need to digest more. The book also includes three pieces written in verse form. The writing is good, but the style seems out of place.

This 28-selection smorgasbord offers something for the person with only a few minutes to read every day as well as for the leisurely reader. It gives observers of Catholic writing an accurate idea of what constitutes "best," provides an excellent overview of Catholic thought, and records for future historians an idea of what was happening in the church in 2004.

Olszewski becomes the executive editor of the Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, this month.



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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 16, 2005

Jan. 16, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
- 3) Gospel: John 1:29-34

Detours can be groundwork for bigger things

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Several years ago, I left the familiarity of full-time parish religious education ministry to work for a government contracting firm based in Washington, D.C.

In the prayerful process of discernment and decision making, I reasoned that the change would be good. I would command a higher salary as a "telecommuting" marketing support representative, and I would be able to work out of my home, which sounded like a great option for a mother of three young children.

So for three months from my bedroom corner office, I participated in corporate conference calls, wrote reports and proposals, and fulfilled requests from clients all over the country — all the while becoming more disenchanted with the work I thought would become my life's new occupation. After a scant four months with the firm, I yielded to the inner call to return to parish work, wondering how I had so misread God's call or, worse, why God would lead me on such an ill-fated professional detour.

Three years later, when I was hired by our diocese to coordinate its first synod, I had the answer to that question, as I found myself repeatedly relying on

skills that had been honed on the computer and the telephone in those few frustrating months. I came to realize that the "detour" had in fact comprised essential preparation for a task I could not have imagined at the time.

The job that I viewed as a deviation from God's plan was actually the groundwork for something beyond the scope of my limited occupational thinking.

This Sunday's Gospel reflects that same sort of insight on the part of John the Baptizer, who perceived that his prophetic work in the desert was about something bigger than himself — indeed it involved testifying on behalf of "someone" whom he had envisioned but never met. Similarly, the prophet Isaiah sensed his own purpose as one who was prepared from the womb to be the Lord's servant for the restoration of Israel.

It is doubtful that either John or Isaiah understood all the implications of God's call in their lives; nevertheless, they obeyed and trusted that the purpose would become clearer in time.

In his book "The Dream Giver," best-selling Christian author Bruce Wilkinson encourages each person to be attentive and obedient to the divine call or "dream" that is placed within, asserting that this dream literally is given by God to be fulfilled for the life of the world. The fact that many people are unclear or fearful about their life's purpose does not diminish their dream's importance.

Often it is only hindsight that brings clarity to the dream — but obedience, trust and perseverance, strengthened through prayer and experience, enable each person to bring God's vision to fruition.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 9-15

Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord), Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17; **Monday**, Hebrews 1:1-6, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday (St. Hilary)**, Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday**, Hebrews 4:1-5, 11, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday**, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 16-22

Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; **Monday (St. Anthony)**, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian)**, Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday**, Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; **Saturday (St. Vincent)**, Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21.

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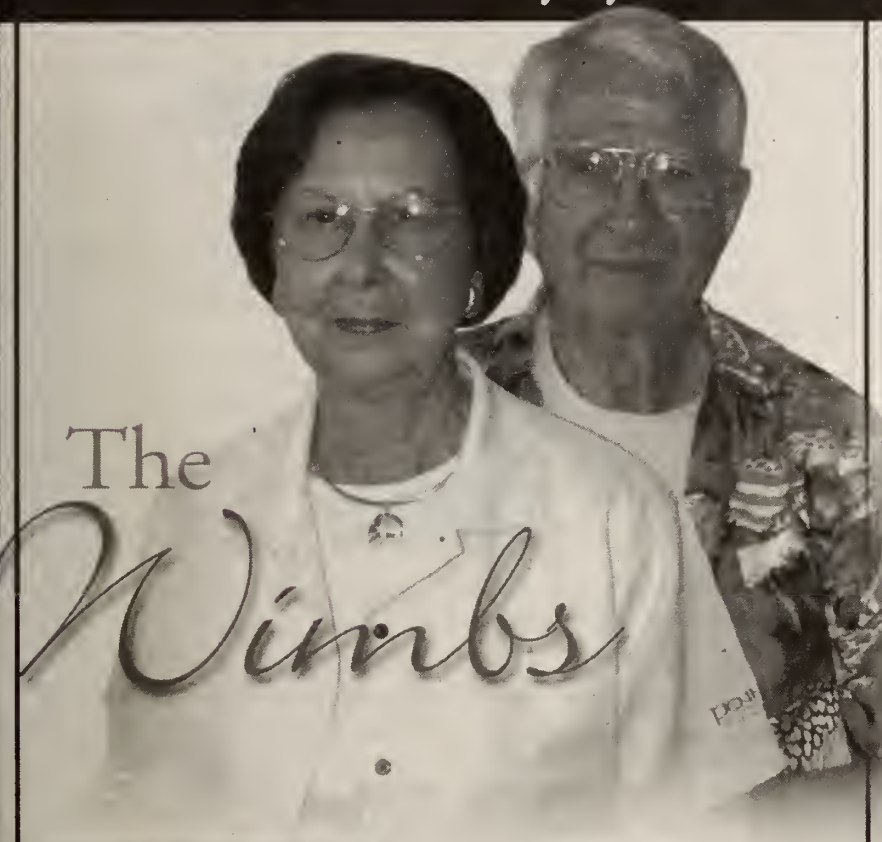
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Study finds growing negative treatment of religion on prime-time TV

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — U.S. television broadcast networks are treating religion much more frequently in their prime-time programming than they did in the 1990s, but the way they treat it has become decidedly more negative, according to a yearlong study by the Parents Television Council.

The council is an advocacy organization seeking to protect children against sex, violence and profanity in the entertainment industry.

The report was released in mid-December. It said that from Sept. 25, 2003, to Sept. 24, 2004, NBC "had a shocking 9.5 negative treatments for every positive treatment" of faith and religion, far more than any of the other six networks analyzed.

The others were ABC, CBS, Fox, Pax, UPN and WB.

Overall, while more than half the treatments of simple expressions of belief or disbelief were positive toward religion and only 7 percent were negative, the study found that negative treatments of religious institutions and doctrines outnumbered positive treatments by a nearly 3-1 margin.

Among portrayals of lay people for whom religion was a strong or central force in life, 34 percent were found to be negative and only 20 percent positive.

Clergy and consecrated religious men and women fared slightly worse, with 36 percent of the portrayals negative and only 15 percent positive.

In all categories the council also found a large number of religious treatments it regarded as mixed, which it described as "relatively balanced points of view with ultimately no side taken," or as neutral, "an ambiguous or an insufficiently substantial treatment of the issue" to make a judgment whether it was positive or negative.

Overall, 11 percent of the treatments studied were classified as mixed and 42 percent as neutral.

The 2004 study on prime-time TV and religion was the first by the council since it conducted such studies annually for five years in 1993-97.

In 1997, it found only 551 treatments of religion in 1,800 hours of

original prime-time programming on six commercial broadcast networks, for an average of one religious reference every 3 hours and 15 minutes. The Pax network, which emphasizes family entertainment, did not make its debut until 1998.

The 2004 study found 2,344 treatments of religion in 2,385 hours of prime-time programming, for an average of just under one per hour.

While religious issues or themes are now being addressed more than three times as often, the level of negativity toward religion has risen significantly since 1997, according to the new study.

In its 1997 report the council said 42 percent of prime-time treatments of religion or faith were positive and 22 percent were negative.

Its 2004 report said only 22.1 percent of the treatments in the past year were positive and 24.4 percent were negative.

Removing Pax — which had 97 positive, 10 mixed or neutral and no negative treatments of religion — from the 2004 figures, the 2004 statistics for the six networks that were also studied in 1997 dropped to 19 percent positive treatments, with nearly 26 percent negative and the rest mixed or neutral.

"Religion and the public expression of faith is a crucial element in the lives of most Americans," said L. Brent Bozell, president of the Parents Television Council. "Our findings should challenge Hollywood to accurately reflect this in television content."

Frank Wright, president of National Religious Broadcasters, which joined in releasing the study, said, "This comprehensive study shows a clear disparity between the religious beliefs of most Americans and how those beliefs are reflected in television programming."

After NBC, the Fox network was found to be the next most negative toward religion with 2.4 negative depictions for every positive one.

WB and ABC had 1.2 negative depictions for each positive one, the study said.

It said these were "followed by UPN with one negative for every 1.1 positive, CBS with one negative for every two positive and Pax, which did not have a single negative depiction."

"Negativity toward religion grew steadily with each passing hour of prime time," the council said. "During the 7 p.m. hour, religious content was negative 16.9 percent of the time. In the 8 p.m. hour, 20.8 percent of the instances were negative. In the 9 p.m. hour, 27.5 percent of instances were negative, and in the 10 p.m. hour, 28.2 percent were negative."

The council's 2004 report, titled "Faith in a Box: Entertainment Television and Religion," is available on the Internet at: www.parentstv.org. The site also has similarly titled reports on the 1997 study and the findings of the 1993-96 studies.

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FROM THE COVER

Pope begins year with prayers for victims

TSUNAMI, from page 1

those engaged in relief efforts, the papal spokesman said Jan. 1.

The United Nations estimates some 5 million people were without proper shelter and nearly 2 million were in urgent need of food and water after a series of powerful tsunamis hit 12 Indian Ocean countries.

The death toll continued to climb to 140,000 people, but the United Nations said the true number of those killed in the disaster might never be known, because many bodies were washed out to sea.

In his first Angelus address of the new year, Pope John Paul expressed his continued concern for the people "hit by the tragic cataclysm."

Overlooking 40,000 people gathered for the noontime address in St. Peter's Square Jan. 1, the pope assured victims of his prayers, and he praised the international show of solidarity in bringing aid and relief to those most in need.

"The hope for better days in the coming new year, which begins today, rests upon this sense of human solidarity, along with the help of God," the pope said.

Earlier that day, the pope presided over a morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on the occasion of the feast of Mary,

Mother of God, and World Day of Peace.

Ambassadors from the 174 nations that maintain diplomatic ties to the Holy See attended the Jan. 1 Mass. The pope gave special greetings to those diplomats representing the 12 countries affected by the Dec. 26 tsunamis.

During his Jan. 2 Angelus address, the pope reassured the faithful that God is always by their side, even in times of trouble.

"Faith teaches us that even through the most difficult and painful trials, as with the calamity in Southeast Asia, God never abandons us," he said.

WANT TO HELP?

Catholic Relief Services is providing immediate and ongoing assistance for the disaster victims. The Catholic community of the Diocese of Charlotte is responding to this need by collecting funds. Please consider making a donation to support this effort.

Kindly respond to parish initiatives by remitting a contribution directly to the parish. Make checks payable to your parish, marked clearly for the CRS Tsunami Relief effort. Alternatively, donations may be sent to the Diocese of Charlotte, Attn: CRS Tsunami Relief, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. All contributions will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services.

Thank you for your generosity.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Tsunami survivors scramble for water being unloaded from an aid truck in Karaitivu on Sri Lanka's east coast Jan. 2. A week after deadly Indian Ocean tsunamis devastated coastal Sri Lanka, the country is counting the cost of the disaster.

Indonesian Catholic center receives request for more body bags

MISSION PRIEST SURVIVES WAVES
NEAR QUAKE'S EPICENTER

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Among the requests received by the Indonesian bishops' crisis center in Jakarta in the stricken Aceh province was for more body bags.

"People in Aceh have asked us to send more body bags because many of the bodies have not been evacuated yet," said Fa-

ther Ignatius Ismartono, center chairman.

In Indonesia, most of the country's 94,000 casualties were in Aceh on the northern end of Sumatra Island, near the epicenter of an undersea earthquake that sent huge waves crashing into the island's coastline.

Moments after, concerned Indonesians swarmed the crisis center wanting to help the victims. The center began channeling donations to the affected areas Dec. 30, Father Ismartono said.

Franciscan Father Ferdinando Severi was at a mission in Meulaboh, about 75 miles from the epicenter of the magnitude 9 quake, to celebrate Christmas when disaster struck Dec. 26.

The combined effects of the earthquake and tsunamis destroyed 80 percent of the buildings in Meulaboh and caused more than 10,000 deaths in town, with thousands more missing.

Franciscan Severi remained to assist victims, but locals who did not know him but knew that the Indonesian government does not allow foreigners in Aceh took him to authorities, who evacuated him to Banda Aceh.

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Perspectives

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New Year's resolutions for Catholics and the media

Both can learn much from each other

A curious thing happens during week 52 of each year: A few days after the most excessive indulgence of the year, we make resolutions to change and improve our lives. After stuffing ourselves with turkey, ham, "all the trimmings" and enough sweets to turn us all into pillars of sugar, we resolve to lose weight, to read the classics or to be nicer to people.

Perhaps these "healthy" resolutions are an echo of the lessons of Christmas and a tribute to the simple life that our Lord led during his time on earth. But let's be honest — the pledge to lose 10 pounds may also be made because our clothes don't fit.

In the spirit of the season of making promises that aren't always kept, I offer the following list of resolutions for Catholics and the media:

For Catholics, we resolve to:

- understand that the mainstream media will almost never provide a scriptural viewpoint. To obtain that, you have to do your own research. You will be amazed at how much thought-provoking, Scripture-based information you can find on almost anything worth discussing by visiting the Web site of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org.

- recognize that most print and broadcast news organizations exist to sell dog food, diapers, diet drinks and other advertised specials. Informing the public comes second. Since advertising is all about getting our attention, it's easy to understand why the news we read and watch has that same blaring quality. Let us recognize that what the media presents is usually noisy and sometimes interesting, but not always informative.

- listen to and read more than one source of information to understand the issues of the day. Fox News doesn't have all the answers; neither does NPR. The truth lies somewhere in between.

- remember that opinions are like belly buttons — everyone has one. Rush Limbaugh's isn't any better than Michael Moore's (opinion that is — I've never seen either man shirtless and frankly, I don't want to).

- devote time to the Eucharist. This is the Year of the Eucharist and this newspaper and the Diocese of Charlotte will spend a great deal of time exploring this worthwhile subject during the next 12 months.

For the media, please resolve to:

- moderate your relentless focus on the bottom line. Broadcasters, since they are using the public air-

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



waves, have a duty to consider what programming is important to the local audience before they think about how much gold they will collect from advertisers every quarter.

- stop taking the Lord's name in vain. You've done a good job in keeping words about certain bodily functions and others that are racially derogatory off the air and out of print. Please add profanation of God's name to that worthy list.

- don't be afraid of adapting Scripture stories to the small and big screen. Bible stories have been around for more than 5,000 years. There is something to be said for that kind of staying power. And, Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ," proved that a profit could be turned on a well-made story from Scripture.

- explain the differences between the religions of the world instead of trying to evoke a "one god fits everybody" point of view, or worse, focusing more attention on the differences between faiths. Catholics can learn much from the experience of Muslims and Jews, among others, and they can gain from us. Help us to explore our similarities before we discuss our differences.

This year, it's "Merry Christmas," not "Happy Holidays."

David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

No waves here, but still victims abound

Don't forget your neighbors when giving

According to a recent story on Catholic News Service, U.S., Canadian and British Catholic aid agencies said support for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunamis surpasses the response to previous disasters.

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' agency for overseas aid and development, raised \$17 million in the first nine days after launching its appeal to help victims of tsunamis that hit 12 countries in Asia and Africa Dec. 26. The money is being applied to the \$25 million that CRS pledged to provide to countries most affected by the disaster.

This, of course, is wonderful news! It shouldn't be surprising that these relief agencies see record giving levels for the tsunami relief; the disaster, after all, was record breaking, as was the number of victims, which continues to rise — around 140,000 people, at last count.

I pray for the victims and their families; I can't begin to imagine their suffering. And I sincerely applaud everyone who has tried to make a difference to help those victims, either through donations of time, talent or treasure.

Tragedies such as the tsunamis, Sept. 11, 2001, and hurricanes seem to bring out the best in people. When we see mass suffering on television, we feel compelled to help. That's human compassion at work.

While it's reassuring that there are still many good people in this world, I can't help but think of other victims who endure tragedies every day. We don't have to go around the globe to find them, but most of the world will never hear about them, nor try to help.

Almost daily, families all over our country experience house fires. My wife, who works in disaster relief for the American Red Cross, was called out several times over the holidays to assist such families. She has seen their shock of watching their homes, possessions and valuables go up in flames. While they are grateful for their lives, the fear and doubt about their unknown futures wear heavily on their faces. They have lost everything. Now what?

Organizations such as the American Red Cross do tremendous work — mostly through volunteers and others who donate their time, resources and

Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR



money — to help victims all around the world, including the tsunami victims. But often these organizations have trouble raising funds or attracting volunteers for efforts right here at home. Many people want to fly to Thailand to assist tsunami victims; very few want to get up at 3 a.m. to help house fire victims down the street. Why is that?

On a similar note, almost 36 million Americans live in poverty, and the national poverty rate is increasing. North Carolina ranks third among the top 10 states with the greatest increase in poverty.

For the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, January is Poverty in America Awareness Month. It's a month to remember those who suffer every day, in this country, often in our own neighborhoods. Every day, people across North Carolina are suffering; and they need our help.

In his Gospel, Luke writes about Lazarus, a poor man covered with sores who longed to satisfy his hunger with scraps that fell from the table of a rich man, who ignored Lazarus. Upon their deaths, it was only Lazarus who went to heaven.

While we should feel compelled to help when we see our brothers and sisters suffering on television, we can't forget or neglect those who are suffering in our own backyards, hoping to catch scraps from our tables. Our baptism as Catholics calls us to action. Get involved. Volunteer at your church, in your community. Make a difference.

I heard Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin once say we should "see Christ in all people, and be Christ to all people." A person can still be a victim without a tsunami; we shouldn't wait for a tsunami to wash through to show compassion for others.

The length of time Christ is present in the Eucharist

Q. Is there a church teaching on how long Christ is in the Eucharist? (Louisiana)

A. Catholic doctrine states when bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, our Lord's Eucharistic presence remains as long as the species (appearance) of bread and wine remain.

Obviously, once we receive the consecrated wine and bread in Communion, our digestive processes affect them just as other food, until they are no longer identifiable as the bread and wine we

consumed. When that happens, after maybe 15 or 20 minutes, Christ is no longer present as a sacrament.

However, the relationship with the life and person of Christ, which we call grace, is greatly enhanced by our celebration and reception of the Eucharist. It is a major way God invites and unites us to an ever greater friendship with him.

This intimate presence of Jesus, which grows also through the other sacraments, prayer, charitable works and a good life, does not cease when the sacramental pres-

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



ence of our Lord ceases. It continues to develop unless it is diminished or lost by sin, which is a deliberate turning away and rejection of that relationship.

Here we go again: New Year's resolutions

Resolutions should be for right reasons

I don't know yet if the New Year's resolutions are more volatile than the Lenten resolutions. Here we go again with giving up candies, chocolate, coffee, smoking. My advice? Don't do all of the above in a one-shot deal.

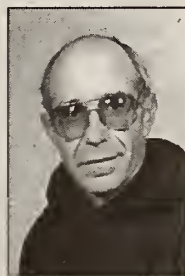
I do know that it is good to make resolutions and keep them. What principles do we follow in making and keeping our resolutions? The text of St. Matthew may unravel the answer for which we are looking: "I tell you, said Jesus, unless your holiness surpasses that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of God" (Mt. 5:20).

In our pluralistic culture, we are bombarded on every side with isms, cults and voices, which, apparently, all show the highway to God. Jesus, however, knew the moral theology before the theologians wrote those big volumes in Latin. Jesus doesn't require pious, outward religious trappings, right actions according to the law. He is infinitely more interested in the right reason for our actions.

Jesus goes beyond our moral principles: he tells us to do the right thing for the right reason. A paradigm through proper liturgical motions doesn't make anybody better or worse. Prayer or the

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN
AURILIA,
OFM Cap.



absence of it makes us better or worse. Our good Lord goes beyond "Thou shall not kill." He adds, "Thou shall not hate."

Our resolutions, therefore, should be right and for the right reason.

Another quality of good resolutions is confidence that we can do them. A poet and an artist examined a painting by Nicholas Poussin representing the healing of the blind man of Jericho. The artist asked, "What seems to you the most remarkable thing in this painting?"

The poet said, "Everything in the painting is excellently portrayed — the form of Christ, the grouping of the individuals, the expression in the faces of the leading characters," etc.

The artist seemed to find the most significant touch elsewhere. He said to his friend, pointing to the steps of the

house in the corner of the picture: "Do you see that discarded cane lying there?"

"Yes, but what does that mean?"

"My friend, on those steps the blind man sat with the cane clutched tightly in his hand, but when he heard Christ come, he was so sure he would be healed that he let his cane lie there, since he would need it no more and hastened to the Lord as if he could already see. Is not that a wonderful conception of the confidence of faith?"

He was right. Too often we hold on to canes and crutches and other means of self-help paraphernalia, instead of going to the savior, who can make sense of our non-sense.

Good resolutions rely on God, but our "yes" is required. Our life is a beautiful tapestry of light and shadows weaved with courage, fear, love and hate. The beauty of that tapestry is not what comes into your life that makes the pattern; it's the use you make of it that counts. Having the humility of not being the smartest, the best and the infallible makes things much easier for effective resolutions.

Father Aurilia, Ph.D., is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Pope, Vatican audience observe silent prayer for tsunami victims

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS AERVICE

VATICAN CITY — As the countries of the European Union marked an official day of mourning for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunamis, Pope John Paul II once again asked people to join him in prayer for the dead and those left "in great difficulty."

Ending the pope's Jan. 5 audience precisely at noon, papal aides announced that the pope and the Vatican were joining people throughout Europe in observing three minutes of silence and prayer for the tsunami victims.

After the three minutes of silence, an official led the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and a prayer for the dead.

During his audience talk, the pope prayed that Mary would watch over the world and protect it during the New Year, "marked as it is by a deep concern for the sufferings which the people of Southeast Asia are presently undergoing."

He repeated a Marian antiphon sung by cantors at the beginning of the audience: "Loving Mother of the Redeemer, Queen of Peace, assist your people, defend them from all danger, be with the church on her journey to our heavenly home."

The audience had its lighter moments, as well. In addition to greeting more than a hundred visitors individually and kissing dozens of babies and children, the pope revealed his loyalty to the soccer team in the Polish city where he was archbishop.

At the audience, the pope told Polish speakers that the Krakow Sports Club was celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"I have been tied to them for years," he said, wishing the team "much success on the sports field and in its educational activity."

Members of the team also had a private afternoon audience with the pope Jan. 4.

At the private gathering, the pope told club members, "I know that in the course of this century there were years of splendor, but difficult times were not lacking."

"I am pleased to hear that the past couple years have brought new successes," he said. "I hope that there are even more."

The pope encouraged team members to be examples of how sports can form character and teach "the nobility of competition and solidarity."

The perfect gift

Many ways to be mindful of the poor

It is a brand new year and all the holiday hustle and bustle is behind us — well, for most of us anyway. As program director for Parish Social Ministry in the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, I sometimes feel like the Grinch who steals the "enjoyment" the rest of year.

Why do I feel like a Grinch? Because a major portion of my job is to encourage all of us "... to be mindful of the poor" (Gal. 2:10).

One of my responsibilities is working with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty program of U.S. bishops. This month, CCHD launches its fifth national awareness campaign during "Poverty in America Awareness Month" with the unsettling news that nearly 36 million Americans live in Poverty USA, according to the most recent U.S. Census figures.

While many of us were preoccupied with searching for the "perfect" gift during the holidays, one out of six children in our country went to bed hungry, most likely without a warm coat or a home. There are 18 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, and the national rate of children living in poverty would equal the student population of almost three of those schools.

The national poverty rate rose from 12.1 percent in 2002 to 12.5 percent in

2003. This .4 percent increase represents 1.3 million more people who are now poor. The Office of Management and Budget defined the average poverty threshold in 2003 as \$18,810 for a family of four. A recent CCHD study shows that most Americans believe it takes nearly twice that amount (\$35,000) to adequately house, clothe and feed a family of four.

The CCHD Web site, www.povertyusa.org, illustrates that a number of essentials are left out of an \$18,810 budget. People living in the state of poverty face difficult decisions every day — whether to pay for health care or child care, whether to purchase school supplies or whether to buy shoes or a birthday gift.

Sadly, North Carolina ranks third (at 1.6 percent) among the top 10 states in the United States with the greatest increase in poverty from 2002 to 2003. The state ranks tenth (at 14.2 percent) among the top 10 states with the highest poverty rate in the nation for 2002-2003.

Fortunately the news is not all bad. The CCHD "Poverty in America Awareness Month" campaign offers hope for the future. The good news includes a safe haven for at-risk youth in Asheville, assistance with safe and affordable hous-

Guest Column

TERRI JARINA
GUEST COLUMNIST



ing in Franklin and organizing for racial justice in western North Carolina — all right here in our diocese. These endeavors and more are the result of the community-based, self-help projects that are funded by CCHD.

Hopefully, by now you are asking "what can I do?" about the state of poverty. Luckily there are a number of options. To start, visit www.povertyusa.org or www.pobrezausa.org, or contact the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace to educate yourself on the reality of poverty in America.

Additional options include becoming an advocate with and for those who live in poverty; participating with any of the organizations that receive national or local funding from CCHD; and/or donating your time, resources, concern and compassion. You also can look for the television, radio and print ads promoting "Poverty in America Awareness Month" and contact me to let me know when you see or hear one of them.

Contact Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234 or e-mail thjarina@charlottediocese.org, or visit the Office of Justice and Peace Web site at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

AROUND THE NATION

Monstrance blessed by pope to be used in vocations drive

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — During 2005, U.S. and Canadian parishes will be able to display a monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II to stimulate prayers for vocations, said Father Edward J. Burns, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation.

The aim is to send the monstrance to different dioceses to promote prayer ser-

vices built around adoration of the consecrated host, he said.

A monstrance is an exposition case and stand used to display the Eucharist for adoration.

"The official kickoff will be Jan. 12 in the middle of vocations awareness week," Father Burns told Catholic News Service Jan. 3.

On Jan. 12, the monstrance is scheduled to be used during a day of

eucharistic adoration at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, with a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Vocations.

After that the monstrance will go to Chicago for a Jan. 14-16 gathering sponsored by Serra International, a Catholic organization promoting vocations to religious and priestly life, said Father Burns.

Plans for the rest of the year have not been finalized yet to give bishops time to request the presence of the monstrance in their dioceses, said Father Burns.

His office and Serra International are organizing the tour. Also involved in promoting the tour is the Legionaries of Christ, a religious order of priests.

The monstrance was given to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops by the Vatican, which is promoting eucharistic adorations and expositions as a

way of praying for vocations during the 2004-05 Year of the Eucharist declared by the pope, said Father Burns.

The Year of the Eucharist began last Oct. 17 and will conclude next October with a world Synod of Bishops having the Eucharist as its theme.

The monstrance is one of six blessed by the pope last November, said Father Burns.

Each monstrance was sent to a different region of the world as a symbol of the connection between the Eucharist and priestly vocations, he said.

"This is our opportunity to be in solidarity with the world in praying for vocations," he said.

The six regions given a monstrance are: the United States and Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

"It's part of a Vatican initiative to launch vocations worldwide," said Daniel Gonzales, national director of a Legionaries of Christ Web site at www.vocation.com.

He added that the Legionaries have been working with the Vatican to promote prayers for vocations during the eucharistic year.

NOTICE TO READERS

The Parish Profile feature will return.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

During 2005, this monstrance will travel the United States and Canada for use in eucharistic adoration for vocations. The monstrance is one of six blessed by the pope last November, each for a different continent.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Exploring sacred ritual;
prayer cards distributed in
parishes

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JANUARY 14, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 NO 15

BIRTHDAY BASH



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Msgr. Anthony Kovacic cuts the cake during his 85th birthday celebration at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont Jan. 9. Below: Msgr. Kovacic listens as parishioners sing "Happy Birthday."

Parish celebrates birthday, legacy of beloved former pastor

Parish center renamed for Msgr. Anthony Kovacic



BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — Parishioners squeezed into Queen of the Apostles' Family Life Center to honor their former pastor.

They stood and applauded as Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, flanked by the Knights of Columbus color guard, entered the center for his parish birthday celebration Jan. 9, two days before his 85th birthday. While he suspected a party, Msgr. Kovacic was unaware that Bishop Peter J. Jugis would be on hand to rededicate the cen-

ter, renamed the Msgr. Anthony Kovacic Parish Center in honor of the man who was instrumental in its creation.

"To all of you, I am most grateful," Msgr. Kovacic said to the crowd. Then, jokingly, "Now I'll have to learn the new name of the center."

During his time as pastor from 1985 to 1994, Msgr. Kovacic saw a need for not only a facility for Catholic instruction but a place where the parish could meet in fellowship.

See KOVACIC, page 5

DISCERNING A CALL

Religious, laity gather to discuss vocations

BY DEACON GERALD
POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO

People in the Diocese of Charlotte recently explored the meaning of vocations.

Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, northern regional coordinator of faith formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, worked with the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry to bring together members of religious communities, adults and youths to explain and encourage vocations.

Approximately 55 participants gathered at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Jan. 9

See VOCATIONS, page 4

New study shows morning-after pill does not decrease pregnancies

DRUG MAY HAVE FATAL
COMPLICATIONS, SAYS
PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A new study of the morning-after pill shows that the drug's increased availability does not reduce pregnancy rates, contrary to claims made by advocates of the emergency contraception pills called Plan B.

"This study blows the lid off the main argument for putting morning-after pills on the drugstore shelf," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for

See ABORTION, page 9

TSUNAMI RELIEF

CSS receives requests for adopting tsunami orphans

PRIORITY IS TO KEEP
CHILDREN WHERE THEY
ARE, SAYS DIRECTOR

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — You see them on the television: survivors of one of the most widespread natural disasters in history.

Because many of these faces are children, news coverage has stirred people around the world to offer to adopt orphans of the tsunami disasters in Asia. Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte is one of the agencies that have been receiving inquiries.

See ORPHANS, page 13



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Indian survivors, who lost their parents in the tsunami, stay at an orphanage near Nagapattinam Jan. 5.

Black Heritage

Upcoming MLK
celebration; Basilica
balcony creates mysteries

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Perspectives

Abortion and child abuse
connected; Tsunami by
another name

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Parish Profile

Queen of the Apostles
Church has significant
history in Gaston County

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5224 P2

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

DRAPED IN GOOD DEEDS



CNS PHOTO BY DON BLAKE, THE DIALOG

Caitlin Connors, a sophomore at Padua Academy in Wilmington, Del., made more than 300 pink scarves that were sold to raise money for breast cancer research. Caitlin remembered that mothers of some of her former schoolmates at St. Mary Magdalen had developed cancer and the mother of a friend of hers had died of the disease.

Delaware teen makes pink scarves to help in fight against cancer

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — Caitlin Connors was in a fabric shop in late October when she saw a pink fleece fabric with dark pink ribbons, signifying Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Caitlin, a sophomore at Padua Academy in Wilmington, remembered that the mothers of some of her former classmates at St. Mary Magdalen School had developed cancer, and the mother of a friend of hers had died of the disease.

"I wanted to do something to help them," said Caitlin.

The pink fabric gave her an idea.

For her confirmation project, Connors made and sold fleece scarves and donated the proceeds to the American Cancer Society to help women with breast cancer.

She underestimated how popular the scarves would be.

"We got enough material for 56 scarves," she said. "The first day after orders went out, I got 127 orders. I kind of panicked."

The orders kept coming — 310 in all. Caitlin and her parents scoured local shops for more pink fleece material. They enlisted the help of Connors' grandmothers, both of whom live in the Philadelphia area, and ended up with five different patterns.

Shortly after Thanksgiving,

barely a month after she came up with her idea, Caitlin presented \$1,550 to the American Cancer Society — \$5 for each scarf she sold for \$8. The remaining \$3 covered supplies.

Her donation will help fund the cancer group's Ladies Charity Golf Classic at Delaware National Country Club in August to raise more funds for services for those with breast cancer.

Most of the five-foot-long scarves were sold through St. Mary Magdalen School. Caitlin asked Barbara Wanner, the school's principal, for permission to send an order form home with students.

"Over the years, we've had too many young women develop breast cancer," Wanner said. "I think because breast cancer has touched so many people's lives in our parish and in our school community, people responded."

Selling homemade items is nothing new for Caitlin, who has also sold cloth bags to friends to use as backpacks.

"I like to do designing and sewing," she said.

Her next project? Caitlin made still more scarves as Christmas presents. She had more fleece — but not pink this time — and she had only a dozen to make, not 300.

Thomas Merton scholars upset by monk's absence in upcoming catechism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new catechism for adults, currently awaiting Vatican approval, has some scholars up in arms not over the actual text, but over what is missing.

Early editions of the upcoming "U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults," which went through four years of writing and fine-tuning, led off with a section on Trappist Father Thomas Merton. But the Kentucky monk, who became well known for his best-selling autobiography, is not in the catechism's final draft.

Instead, the book begins with a description about St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The replacement did not go unnoticed by Merton scholars who started a petition drive to get him back.

The catechism, which will be the first of its kind in the United States aimed specifically at adults, contains brief biographies of saints and other well-known people of faith, and is

meant to be a complement to the universal "Catechism of the Catholic Church" issued in 1992 by Pope John Paul II.

Msgr. Daniel Kutys, deputy secretary for catechesis in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' education department, said that during early consultations on the text some suggested that it contained too many stories about men and not enough examples of women. Seton was chosen to replace the Merton entry not only for her gender, but because she, like Merton, was a convert to Catholicism.

The final draft, approved by the U.S. bishops at their November meeting, has been sent to Rome where it must receive a "recognitio," or confirmation, from the Holy See before it can be published as an official catechism.

In the meantime, Merton scholars hope to generate support for the missing section.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, will host a *Pro-Life Rosary and Benediction* Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for a beautiful night of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the cathedral. For details, call (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will be the featured speaker at the *Women's Talk* at St. Vincent Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — The music ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults of all ages have found this to be a great place for entertaining and warm spiritual messages, evangelization and an opportunity for praise and worship music in a Christian environment. There is no charge to attend. To reserve a table for a group of six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew *Utrech* will meet Jan. 26 in the New Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. The next Men's Weekend is April 28 – May 1. The next Women's Weekend is June 2 – 5. For more information, contact Dan Hines, (704) 544-6665 or e-mail bmayer@alltel.net.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965* is being considered for the fall of 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — *Fun and Fitness after 50* classes are being offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This program of gentle exercise promotes joint flexibility and muscle strength. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call Maureen Benfield at (704) 362-5047, ext. 221.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope offers prayers for babies baptized in the past year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although for the second year in a row Pope John Paul II did not baptize any infants on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, he did offer special prayers for the world's newest, smallest Catholics.

"My thoughts go to all the children who were baptized during the course of the past year," the pope told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square Jan. 9 for the recitation of the Angelus prayer.

"I embrace them and bless them," he said.

"I also bless the godfathers and godmothers and, especially, the parents of the newly baptized, asking all of them to cultivate, with their words and their example, the seeds of divine life sown by the sacrament of baptism," the pope said.

The pope told the crowd that just as Jesus' public ministry began with his baptism in the Jordan River, the mis-

sion of each Christian begins with his or her baptism.

Church efforts to preach the Gospel, he said, must include giving adults, who were baptized as babies, further formation in their faith and in the meaning of baptism.

"Renewing, in a more mature way, one's adhesion to the faith is necessary for a real and full participation in the eucharistic celebration, which is the summit of church life," the pope said.

Pope repeats call for end to U.S. economic embargo against Cuba

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for an end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba so that adequate conditions for the Caribbean island's development could be met.

The pope made his comments Jan. 8 to Cuba's new ambassador to the Holy See, Raul Roa Kouri, as the diplomat presented the pope with his letters of credential.

"The Holy See strongly desires that obstacles that hinder free communication and exchange between the Cuban nation and part of the international community be overcome as soon as possible," the pope said.

Ending the blockade would reinforce, "through respectful and open dialogue with everyone, the conditions necessary for real development," said the pope.

The United States has maintained a trade and travel embargo against Cuba since 1961 in an effort to topple the communist government led by President Fidel Castro.

In his address, the pope praised Cuba's progress in providing health care and education to its citizens, adding that the "Holy See considers assuring these conditions of human existence (to be) some of the pillars upon which peace is built."

Peace, "which is not just the absence of war," also involves the promotion of the full human person, fostering the

"health and harmonic growth of the body and spirit" for all people, he said.

The pope, who visited Cuba in 1998, commended the country's strong sense of solidarity to people suffering from war, poverty or natural disasters. He emphasized the need for greater religious liberty in Cuba, especially in easing the process required for foreign priests and religious to enter the country.

So that the church in Cuba can continue to promote the common good of the people there, "it is desirable that, in an atmosphere of genuine religious freedom, (the church) be able to maintain and expand its already existing links of solidarity with other sister churches," the pope said.

The pope also urged allowing the church to express its views in the public sphere as well as opening up dialogue with all Cubans.

Cuba has been accused of human rights violations, including the jailing of political dissidents.

In his Jan. 8 address, the pope called for "dialogue with all groups that make up the Cuban people."

Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com or Carol Vincent at jclvincen@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — There will be a *Cursillo Retreat* Jan. 28-29 at the Catholic Conference Center. The program starts Friday at 7 p.m. with Mass, meditation and social time. Saturday activities include Mass, School of Leaders, workshops, men's team meeting and more. All Cursillistas are welcome. E-mail bmayer@alltel.net if interested in attending.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School

Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The annual *March for Life* will take place Jan. 24 in the nation's capital. For more information, call the diocesan respect life office at (704) 370-3229.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Polling the pollsters



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Representatives of the U.S. bishops' conference talk with electoral workers outside a polling station inside Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate Jan. 9. From left are John Carr, head of the U.S. bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace; Bishop William S. Skylstad, conference president; and Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary. Palestinians, electing a successor to Yasser Arafat, overwhelmingly chose moderate Mahmoud Abbas, who has promised to revive a peace process with Israel after years of bloodshed.

Bishop Jugis homilies to be posted online

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will begin posting his Sunday homilies online at the Diocese of Charlotte's Web site.

A link on the Home page will take visitors to a listing of the bishop's available homilies. The first homily to be posted was given at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Jan. 9, during the Mass celebrating the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Posting the homilies online represents another channel of communica-

tion from Bishop Jugis to the nearly 300,000 Catholics in the 46-county diocese. Other channels include *The Catholic News & Herald*, periodic pastoral statements, the bishop's regular appearances at Masses and services and meetings throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

GO ONLINE

Bishop Jugis' homilies are available online at www.charlottediocese.org.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 15 — 1 p.m.

Rally for Life
Raleigh, N.C.

Jan. 16 — 7 p.m.

Prayer Service for the Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity
St. Joseph Church, Newton

Jan. 17 — 1:30 p.m.

Installation Mass for Archbishop Wilton Gregory
Georgia International Convention Center
Atlanta, Ga.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Franciscan Fathers Michael Lorentsen and John Frambes speak to a group of participants about the Franciscans and tell relatively similar stories about their entry into the religious order at a Vocation Awareness Day given at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Jan. 9.

Religious, laity gather to discuss vocations

VOCATIONS, from page 1

to listen to speakers and attend workshops regarding vocations as part of National Vocation Awareness Week, which ran Jan. 9-14.

"This was an important endeavour for the start of National Vocation Awareness Week," said Sister Svatos. "The presentations by the various religious communities are representative of our northern region (of the diocese)."

Workshop presenters included Franciscan Father John Frambes, cam-

pus minister at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Mercy Sisters Angela Perez and Jill Katherine, co-directors of vocations for the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont; Sisters Poor Servants of the Mother of God Lucy Hennessey and Clare Houlihan of Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point; Sister of St. Joseph Phyllis Tierney, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Church; Sister of St. Joseph Mary Elizabeth Karalis of Our Lady of Mercy Convent in Winston-Salem; and John Cahill, a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Johnathan Hanic, parochial vicar of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, gave the keynote address.

Describing a vocation — a calling

— as the "mystery of God speaking to you," Father Hanic spoke about how "God manifested his will in my life."

"The church has something to say about the religious call ... it was Jesus who chooses you. You do not choose him," said Father Hanic. "I am here to share the joy, happiness and bliss that is found as one becomes a servant of God. I have given nothing. It has all been given to me."

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, said there are two obstacles people face in following a religious vocation. The first is the "fear of loneliness."

"Yet, I appreciate my time alone with God, along with the solitude it brings," he said. "The second obstacle is the fear of commitment. However, I find that it is my 'family of faith' that nourishes my commitment."

"I am pleased to have several people (at my parish) interested in pursuing vocations to the priesthood," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

The faith of the religious communities represented made positive impressions on the youths in attendance.

"People who are religious leaders are normal people," said Patrick Lewis, an eighth-grader at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro. "I am not yet ready to make a decision about the priesthood, but maybe some day."

Theresa Benson, a ninth-grader at Hopewell High School in Huntersville, may have already received her calling.

"I felt called to be a nun," she said. "I know now that I need to pray about it."

"I wanted to explore the possibility of being a sister," said ninth-grader Josie Fink, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville. "I still have a lot of time for that decision. If I leave things to God, they will work out."

Not all vocations are to the religious life, however.

The term "vocation" indicates the call of Christ, which is offered to all baptised persons in order that they follow him by becoming living signs and witnesses to the Kingdom of God. Thus all followers of Christ share in this common vocation.

There are several ways in which the faithful can follow Christ — while some vocations are realized through the taking of holy orders to the priesthood, others are through vows as religious brothers and sisters, through marriage or the single life.

Each of these elements leads to a life dedicated to Christ according to people's own abilities.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.



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"YES!" You still have time!

Have you heard about the exciting new training coming to Mc Carthy Center in Belmont, NC on Saturday, January 29? The Sisters of Mercy and the Gastonia Vicariate are hosting a

"YES! Congress on the Bible."

The "YES! Congress on the Bible" will train young people and adult mentors to establish teen-to-teen Bible-sharing groups in their parish, school, or organization.

Each parish, school, and organization is invited to send a team of teen peer leaders and their adult mentors who are interested in establishing Bible-sharing groups in their parish, school, or organization.



Registration deadline: January 16

Cost: \$15 per person

For more information on the "YES! Congress on the Bible," contact:

Sr. Carolyn Mary Coll, RSM @ 704 813 1425 or Dennis Teall Fleming @ 704 825 9600 x 26

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FROM THE COVER

Parish celebrates Msgr. Kovacic's birthday

KOVACIC, from page 1

Construction of the 7,000-square-foot facility began in 1991 and was completed in a record 12 weeks. The center was dedicated by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue on Feb. 16, 1992.

"It's appropriate that we rename this center in honor of Msgr. Kovacic," said Bishop Jugis, who recalled an early memory of the monsignor at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

The bishop was a young priest reporting to the church to serve as parochial vicar in 1984. Msgr. Kovacic, the bishop recalled, greeted him at the door with arms open wide, saying, "Welcome to St. Leo's."

"That image remains here," said Bishop Jugis. "This will remain a place where Christ welcomes all of us with open arms."

Cornerstone of service

Though Msgr. Kovacic is small in stature, "there's nothing small about the dedication and love he has shown the people of Queen of the Apostles, and continues to show day in and day out," said Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor.

"This gathering shows our love for you," he said to Msgr. Kovacic.

Msgr. Kovacic smiled as more applause erupted from the center adorned with photographs taken throughout his life.

Though he retired in 1994, Msgr. Kovacic still assists at Queen of the Apostles Church and other churches in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Hardly a Sunday goes by when he's not filling in for someone," said Carl Heil, a Queen of the Apostles parishioner who has known Msgr. Kovacic since 1997.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis listens as Msgr. Anthony Kovacic thanks those who attended his parish birthday celebration at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont Jan. 9.

"He's always there to help," said Heil. "If he hears someone is in the hospital, sometimes he's there before the doctor."

Thomas Stocker III, 17, described Msgr. Kovacic as the "cornerstone of the church."

"He's tirelessly worked for us and the church, and shown us what a cornerstone he is," said Thomas. "For the youth, he is a wise person whom we can look up to. It's amazing one man can do so much."

"I am most grateful to Father Joe, the parish staff and all the parishioners for your goodness and kindness," said Msgr. Kovacic.

Mike Minnick recalled being an altar server for Msgr. Kovacic when he was pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte from 1973 until 1979.

"He's just infectious," said Minnick. "He's so positive and upbeat, never critical. He is very well loved."

Humble beginnings

Born in a humble stucco home cradled among the Alpine peaks of Slovenia, a former republic of Yugoslavia, on Jan. 11, 1920, Msgr. Kovacic first considered the priesthood at an early age.

"When I was five years old, the assistant pastor came to visit my home because my sister was very ill," said Msgr. Kovacic. "I, for the first time, expressed my intention or desire to become a priest."

He said his family began calling him "Zupnik," which means "pastor," "and I didn't mind," he said.

Msgr. Kovacic can still remember the German invasion of his country during World War II. "It was one of the

saddest days of my life to see Hitler's divisions marching in and seeing flags everywhere with the swastika on them."

Slovenia was divided between Mussolini's Italian forces and Hitler's German troops. Msgr. Kovacic made several dangerous and unauthorized trips across the border to finish his schooling, with one trip almost costing his life.

"From the (guard) station somehow they noticed my movement toward the border," he said. "I heard some shooting, but I was not hit."

In October 1941, he entered the seminary in Ljubljana, Slovenia. A month later, he decided to finish his schooling at the seminary in Rome, where he met three priests who would become popes — John XXIII, Paul VI and Pius XII.

He was ordained in 1947 and came to the United States in July 1951. He began serving in the then-Diocese of Raleigh at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte that year. He was named a monsignor on Dec. 29, 1989.

Msgr. Kovacic has served in several parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, and served as director of the diocese's permanent diaconate from its inception in 1980 until 1996.

In 1992, he was instrumental in helping to form a Knights of Columbus council at Queen of the Apostles Church. Presently, he retains the Office of Faithful Friar with the William Gaston Assembly No. 2531 and is director of the Propagation of the Faith.

In addition to helping out when needed in parishes, Msgr. Kovacic has used his spare time to work on his golf game.

"I'm one of the worst golfers, but I still love to play," he joked.

While cutting into his birthday cake, Msgr. Kovacic's eyes lit up as parishioners sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

"It wasn't always an easy life; it was often hard work," said Msgr. Kovacic. "But with God's blessing, I came through it."

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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Back from abroad

Asheville librarian experiences life, schools in Japan

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — When school librarian Pamela Budd returned to Asheville Catholic School after a three-week visit to Japan, the students were eager to hear about her experiences.

Before she left, she promised to take "hundreds of photos" to "give the students a sense that Japan is a real place as opposed to a faraway place."

Budd was one of 600 educators selected to take part in a Fulbright Memorial Fund (FMF) Teaching Program, which allows distinguished primary and secondary educators in the United States to travel to Japan in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations.

Budd prepared for the trip by studying the Japanese language at a local community college and studying Japanese culture in her spare time.

In groups of 200, the educators visited Japan in June, October and November 2004. Budd and her group traveled in small groups to visit schools outside of Tokyo.

Budd visited four schools and discovered Japanese students are not much different from their American counterparts, except that they clean their schools.

"They do it joyfully," said Budd. "I saw one group of children cleaning the floor with rags, just scrubbing away."

Budd also learned that Japanese students put on slippers when they enter their schools. They have a separate pair of plastic slippers for the bathroom, which are kept outside the doors. If there are no slippers outside, the bathroom is full, so the students wait until someone comes out.

Japanese students also serve lunch, said Budd, and they do not wear uniforms until junior high. School runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., with after-school activities required as part of their curriculum.

Music is emphasized, and Budd found the school bands, even in elementary school, to be exemplary. One elementary school band played the U.S. national anthem to welcome her.

Martial arts and baseball are among the encouraged activities. The private high school in Nihara that Budd visited attracts many students due to its winning baseball team.

English study begins in seventh grade, Budd reported. Japanese students find the English alphabet, with its 26 letters, easy to learn compared with the Japanese language, which is comprised of thousands of characters.

During her visit to an elementary school in Mihara, Budd presented the third-grade class with a quilt made by third-graders at Asheville Catholic.

Budd said the highlight of her trip was the home visit, in which she spent a night with a Japanese family consisting of two parents, three children and two

Staging Christmas



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students perform an elaborate Christmas program for family and friends at Asheville Catholic School Dec. 15. Students in preschool, kindergarten and first- and second-grades began the show by singing contemporary Christmas carols. Next, a shortened version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was performed by sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. The program ended with third- through eighth-graders singing traditional carols.

grandparents. Budd slept on a bed on the floor. The family's usual breakfast was rice, said Budd, but sometimes with grated radishes, eggs, seaweed soup, fish, green tea and tangerines.

Budd said she saw only one Christian church, an Episcopal church, during her visit in the country that is only 1 percent Christian. The church offered a service in English.

This month, the English teacher in Japan will arrange pen pals for the Asheville Catholic students. Budd will mostly work with the seventh-grade students, who are studying Japan.

Additionally, a koto player from Waynesville will perform the large stringed instrument for the students in February. An artist from Weaverville also will spend two days teaching Japanese language to students, who will write haikus in English and Japanese.

Another aspect of the FMF Teacher Program is for educators to share what they have learned in their communities through a variety of outreach programs. As such, Budd is scheduled to speak

about her experiences to different groups at locations around the diocese.

The FMF program, sponsored by the Japanese government, was launched in 1997 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. government Fulbright Program, which has enabled more than 6,000 Japanese citizens to study in the United States on Fulbright fellowships for graduate education and research.

To date, more than 4,000 primary and secondary U.S. educators have visited Japan through the FMF program.

Teachers and administrators throughout the United States can apply to take part as guests of the Japanese government in one of three scheduled trips to Japan in 2005. Applicants are not required or expected to have prior knowledge of Japanese culture.

WANT MORE INFO?

Interested educators may apply online at www.iiie.org/fmf or call (888) 527-2636.



COURTESY PHOTO

Children from Aijitsu kindergarten in Tokyo perform for U.S. educators, including Pamela Budd of Asheville Catholic School, during a visit to Japan in November 2004.

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Prayer to obtain Grace and Mercy
Year of the Eucharist
2004-2005
Diocese of Charlotte

Lord Jesus Christ, during this Year of the Eucharist, may our worship and contemplation of the mystery of your Body and Blood obtain for us an abundance of grace and mercy. May you, the High Priest of the New Covenant, raise up priests as ardent but gentle stewards of Your Mysteries to shepherd your faithful people. May you also inspire generous hearts to follow you, the Divine Shepherd, as religious sisters and brothers. Throughout our diocese strengthen our families with your grace. May Mary, Mother of God and patroness of our Diocese, assist us during this year as we contemplate Your face with her. May we offer the sacrifice of our lives in union with Your perfect sacrifice and so come to share in the eternal banquet, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen



O Sacrament most Holy
O Sacrament Divine:
All praise and all thanksgiving
Be every moment Thine!

Eucharistic prayer card to be distributed in parishes

CHARLOTTE — In correlation with the Year of Eucharist, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II to run from October 2004 until October 2005, the Diocese of Charlotte is issuing specially made prayer cards to all people of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The cards have been sent to all 92 parishes and missions in the diocese, and should be distributed soon, if not already, to parishioners.

The card, first announced in a letter from Bishop Peter J. Jugis in the Dec. 17 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, contains a photo of Raphael's "Disputation of the Eucharist" on one side and a "Prayer to Obtain Grace and Mercy" on the other side.

"It contains a special petition to Our Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life to serve Him in the Diocese of Charlotte, and a

petition for His blessing on all our families throughout the diocese," wrote Bishop Jugis.

"To celebrate this year of the Eucharist, I ask that you give primary importance to your participation each Sunday in the celebration of Mass at your local parish church," said the bishop.

Bishop Jugis also asked that persons consider spending time in eucharistic adoration outside of Mass. Several parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte offer regularly scheduled times each month for eucharistic exposition and Benediction. A listing of these parishes and times appears in the last issue of The Catholic News & Herald each month.

The list, as well as information about the upcoming diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 23-24, is available online at www.goeucharist.com.

Sacred ritual

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 3

Two weeks ago, we began our catechesis on the Mass by looking at the purpose or the goal of the Mass, which is to worship God as perfectly as possible and receive God's grace through the reception of Holy Communion.

Since this is our highest goal or duty in life, last week we acknowledged the need to prepare for Mass. We saw that the best preparation for Mass is to live a life of virtue, as well as taking time to pray before Mass begins.

This week we are going to take a moment to look at how we are to arrive at our goal. If our goal is to drive from Lincolnton to Washington, D.C., don't we take a moment to look over a road map? Today we will look at the road map, the schema of the Mass, commonly known as the "ritual."

Ritual is a natural part of human life. A good number of our daily activities are marked by ritual: from our morning rituals, to driving from place to place, to preparing supper and going to sleep at night. In fact, the philosophers have called man a "ritual-making animal."

Rituals mark the day, the week and the season. I'm sure most of us have a specific family ritual for the seasons and the feasts throughout the year, such as birthdays, Christmas and Easter.

The family of God also has its rituals. But the difference is that in God's family, He establishes the ritual that we are to follow. God is the author and the legislator of sacred ritual.

Indeed, if our goal is to worship God as perfectly as we are able, it would make sense that He would teach us how, even demonstrate the way it is to be done; it would make sense that He would provide us with an accurate road map that leads to Him. Otherwise, we might be wandering aimlessly about with no sense of our destination or the path.

Therefore, God has provided the Mass as a sacred ritual that we can follow to worship Him perfectly.

Not only does God establish the ritual of the Mass so that we can arrive safely at our destination, but He gives us the Mass because it is most suited to us as His children. When we are baptized, we become members of the body of Christ, adopted members of God's own family. And as members of his family, we worship Him as a family, as a community of faith.

Ritual allows communal expression of faith that spans time and place, culture and language. It is one of the marks or

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



characteristics of the Catholic Church that we share a universal faith and practice with all Catholics throughout the world. The Mass that we attend today is the same Mass that is being offered in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome by the Pope.

So, when you are on vacation in Italy or England or Australia, you can attend the same Catholic Mass that is being offered in Lincolnton. Ritual allows communal expression of faith throughout the world and throughout time.

Perhaps more importantly than allowing communal expression of faith, ritual also encourages true freedom. Many people think that ritual binds or constricts or stifles freedom of expression. But in reality, ritual encourages freedom.

The modern mind misunderstands freedom. The modern mind often confuses freedom with liberty or license. Just imagine a communal worship service that did not follow a ritual. How free would the congregation be to participate? Would you know what to expect next?

When it comes to driving, the rules of the road encourage the freedom of drivers to arrive safely at their destination. It is when a driver decides to be novel or innovative in their approach to the speed limit or other such rules that accidents occur. Like the rules of driving, ritual establishes a familiar pattern. This familiar pattern of worship allows free access to the sacred mysteries.

Ritual is like the two banks of a river that direct the flow of that river towards its destination. Ritual frees the mind and the heart to respond to God's grace and allows us to pray more effectively.

Next week, we will conclude our background material on the Mass by looking at how our Lord established the sacred ritual of the Mass within the context of another sacred ritual: the Passover.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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BLACK HERITAGE

Basilica restoration uncovers pre-Civil War balcony for freed slaves

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Restoration work on Baltimore's basilica has uncovered the original balcony in the rear of the 198-year-old building where freed slaves were allowed to worship before the Civil War.

"It's a significant discovery," said Mark J. Potter, executive director of the Basilica of the Assumption Historic Trust.

The 40-foot-long balcony provided black worshippers with the best view of the sanctuary, even though they were segregated from the rest of the congregation, said restoration architect John G. Waite, an expert on the history of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And, he said, while all the old cathedral's pews were rented to worshippers, the ones in the balcony were free to their black occupants.

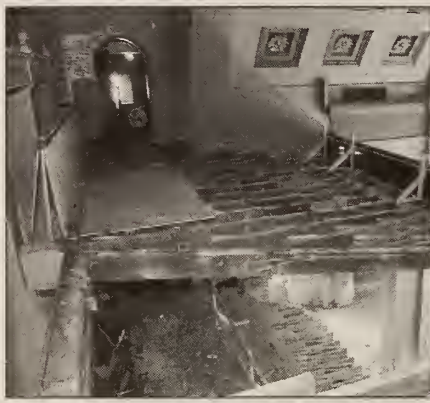
"When you consider how the balcony was used it was actually a very progressive thing to do in those days because other churches weren't letting blacks through their doors in the first place," Waite said.

Shortly after the Civil War, the balcony was restructured and transformed into two small balconies. Blacks, now emancipated, were then deprived of their place in the basilica, Waite said.

Ironically, the changes were made by John Rudolph Niernsee, an important architect of 19th-century buildings.

Waite said he suspects that Niernsee's strong Southern sympathies were behind the move to redo the balcony and oust blacks from the cathedral.

The head of the Baltimore see at the time was Archbishop Martin John Spalding, a Southerner. However, the balcony issue becomes more mysterious in light of the fact that that Archbishop



CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Restoration work on the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore has uncovered this original balcony where freed slaves were allowed to worship before the Civil War.

Spalding had not only been a strong supporter of emancipation but had made considerable efforts to evangelize blacks and assure their fair treatment after the Civil War.

Whatever the reasons behind the changing of the balcony may have been, it will now be fully restored to its original condition.

Meanwhile, Potter said that while construction workers are operating on a tight schedule he is confident the restoration will be completed in September 2006, in time for the basilica's November bicentennial celebrations.

PAST TO PRESENT

Annual event to celebrate legacy of Rev. King

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — People in the Diocese of Charlotte will soon have an opportunity to experience a celebration of diversity and unity.

The Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, will be held at the Hilton-University Place Hotel in Charlotte on Saturday, Jan. 22.

In order to encourage greater and more diverse attendance, the celebration has been moved from its previous location at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and is being held after Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"There are typically many related events taking place that weekend, so we wanted to give all the opportunity to participate in ours," said Deacon Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte and vicar of the African American Affairs Ministry.

The format has also changed. In years past, the daylong celebration consisted primarily of workshops and liturgy. This year, the event will feature a prayer breakfast, a tour of the Levine Museum of the New South, lunch and an afternoon of black gospel music including genres from slavery to the present.

Featured performers include an old-



Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

fashioned hymn choir, an a cappella choir, an instrumental gospel group and the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir from Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"While this year's celebration is not focusing specifically on the life, legacy, teachings and inspiration of Dr. King, the African American Affairs Ministry still feels that this format helps bridge the divisions that unfortunately still exist between races and religions and keeps Dr. King's dream alive," said Deacon Todd.

The registration deadline of Jan. 10 has been extended.

"To afford everyone an opportunity to attend, registration is still going on," said Deacon Todd.

WANT TO GO?

Registration is \$10, which includes all activities, breakfast and lunch, and transportation to and from the museum. To register or for more information, call (704) 370-3339.

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Morning-after pill does not decrease pregnancies

ABORTION, from page 1

Pro-Life Activities.

"Proponents have repeatedly claimed that making the drug available without a prescription would reduce abortion numbers by as many as half; now their own study debunks that claim," said Ruse.

The study, which appears in the Jan. 5 Journal of the American Medical Association, was conducted at the University of California at San Francisco and studied 2,117 women ages 15-24 for six months.

For the study, the young women were divided into three groups. One group was given a supply of the pills, another group was told to obtain them from a pharmacy and the third group was told to get the drugs from a local health clinic. Women in all three groups had pregnancy rates of around 8 percent.

In each group, including those who had the personal supply of the pills, many of the women did not even use them.

Barr Pharmaceuticals Laboratories, which makes the Plan B pills, has requested that the Food and Drug Administration make the drugs available over the counter without a prescription.

The FDA turned down the initial application last year, saying there was not enough information on how the drug's accessibility would affect the sexual activity of teenagers. The University of California researchers found that the drug's availability did not cause an increase in risky sexual behavior.

A spokeswoman for Barr Pharmaceuticals told reporters Jan. 5 that the

drug company has resubmitted its proposal for over-the-counter availability and expects a response from the FDA later in January.

Ruse, in a Jan. 5 statement, described Plan B as "essentially an overdose of prescription birth-control pills." She said it is "marketed and advertised as a contraceptive" but that "its own proponents admit that it works before and after conception."

She also noted that studies in New Zealand and the United Kingdom "show the drug is associated with an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy, a potentially fatal complication."

"Our message to the FDA remains the same: putting Plan B on the drug-store shelf is bad policy and bad medicine," said Ruse.

"Besides being 'bad policy and bad medicine,' the morning-after pill sends a message that actions have no consequences," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life Office. "The drug company is marketing the idea that a pill is available to solve any problem one may be facing."

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Have you or someone you know had an abortion, or been involved in the decision whether or not to have an abortion? Are you willing to share your story with *The Catholic News & Herald* to help others? If so, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Head of Priests for Life honored for his pro-life work

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Father Frank A. Pavone, director of Priests for Life, was honored for his dedication to the pro-life cause by the Association for the Arch of Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and International Shrine of the Holy Innocents.

Headed by New York attorney Laurence Behr, the Catholic lay association in Buffalo wants to erect a 700-foot-tall ascendable arch, along with a shrine dedicated to victims of abortion around the world.

At a recent banquet, Behr presented Father Pavone with an award in recognition of his "selfless, courageous and persevering advocacy on behalf of the weakest and most vulnerable members of society — the unborn, the sick and the elderly."

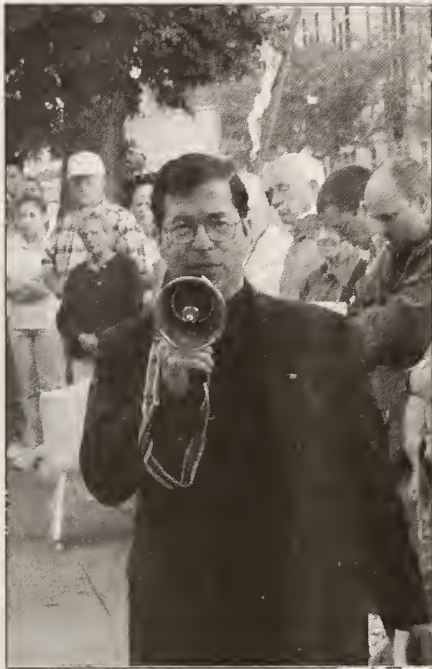
In his address, Father Pavone responded to claims that before the Nov. 2 presidential election his nonprofit organization engaged in political activity by sending priests to churches and parish centers to talk about abortion. The pro-life group also organized conference calls aimed at getting out the vote and helped elderly voters get to the polls.

"I continue to be amazed that some people seem to think it is inappropriate for the church to speak up against baby-killing — dismembering a child," Father Pavone said.

"Something is very wrong when one's loyalty to a political party is greater than one's loyalty to God and fundamental human rights," the priest said.

"We still have the freedom of expression in this country and the best way to protect it is to exercise it without fear. We have the right to speak up against injustice, no matter whom we offend," the priest added.

Father Pavone added that "we have a message that goes far beyond any political party — we have a message that is eternal and reaches from one end of the universe to the other: that every human life is a manifestation of the glory of God, and that an attack on any human life is an attack on God himself."



CNS PHOTO BY MARY ANN WYAND, THE CRITERION

Father Frank Pavone, founding director of Priests for Life, prays with a group of pro-life supporters outside an abortion clinic in Louisville, Ky. More than 150 supporters from Indiana and Kentucky attended the prayer vigil.

The priest said he supports the proposed Arch of Triumph and shrine, saying it will get the attention of those who find it "easy to ignore" the pro-life message.

Behr said his organization has seen the number of supporters of the arch and shrine project increase in the United States, Canada and other countries.

He said the structures will promote an awareness of and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which he said will lead people closer to Christ and bring an end to abortion.

RELATED TOPIC

Read Father Pavone's column on page 15.

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Encouraging prayer

Priest compiles devotional prayers aimed at helping people's faith

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — Father Benedict Groeschel, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal who was injured in a near-fatal accident earlier this year, recently completed a compilation of devotional prayers called "Praying to Our Lord Jesus Christ: Prayers and Meditations Through the Centuries."

The 156-page book is illustrated with images of classic art and includes prayers from early church fathers, medieval theologians and modern-day saints.

Father Groeschel, in the book's introduction, said the collection of prayers was "written under rather difficult circumstances" due to his hospitalization.

But he added that he wanted to "bring out a small book of prayers to Christ in order to encourage every Catholic, every Christian, to pray devoutly and fervently every day to Christ."

"At this time in the church," he wrote, "it seems to me that we need to bring back devotion, especially devotion to Jesus Christ."

He said the prayers are not simply meant to be read, but intended for meditation and personal prayer.

"How rewarding it is to meditate on beautiful prayers so that our own prayers may become more meaningful," he added.

Father Groeschel, the 71-year-old priest who is internationally known for his retreat work and appearances on Mother Angelica's EWTN cable network, has kept up with writing, by dictation, and has edited several books during his recovery.

He was severely injured after he was hit by a car while walking across a Florida intersection Jan. 11, 2004.

Some of his other books include "The Rosary: Chain of Hope," "Arise From Darkness," "A Still Small Voice" and "The Reform of Renewal."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 23, 2005

Jan. 23, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 8:23 to 9:3
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The adventure of a lifetime

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Each year we receive Christmas letters that reflect the ebb and flow in the lives of relatives and friends who have scattered across the country. Sometimes the Christmas letters arrive the day after Thanksgiving; sometimes they trickle in near the middle of January. Nevertheless, these missives signal the gift of life and have the power to evoke memories of days long gone.

Closing one of these letters from a friend I met over 30 years ago, I began to reminisce about some of the outrageously fun times we had when we lived in a small West Texas town. Rich memories washed over me as I looked at her handwriting on the envelope.

I remembered the day she sat down next to me in church one Sunday morning, radiant as a sunbeam. Before I knew what hit me, I was going to help her run the Brownie Scout summer day camp which met in a generous rancher's pasture a few miles out of town.

The hot dusty days of preparation, a swarm of energized Brownie Scouts, an occasional cow and the relentless West

Texas sun cemented a friendship that has lasted more than 30 years, even though 200 miles now separate us.

In this week's Gospel reading, we hear Matthew's familiar account of how Jesus began to choose the men we have come to know as apostles, saints or members of the Twelve. However, in the beginning the first four chosen were hardworking fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. Perhaps we wonder along with Zebedee, the father of James and John, how these men could drop nets, abandon boats and go traipsing after an itinerant teacher.

Although Scripture does not tell us, a number of scholars theorize that Jesus and these men were probably not total strangers the day Jesus invited them to leave everything and to embark on the adventure of a lifetime.

What person on the shore, that day so long ago, could have predicted that 2,000 years later people around the globe would remember these fishermen and ponder the consequences of following Jesus?

Perhaps we are like the fishermen that day on the beach. We may know who Jesus is, but we have not left everything and joined him for the adventure of a lifetime.

Questions:

If Jesus called you to "drop your nets" and follow him, would you go? What would it take to get you to follow him more closely in the daily life you live right now?

Scripture to Illustrate:

"He called (James and John), and immediately they abandoned boat and father to follow him" (Matthew 4:22).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 16-22

Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; Monday (St. Anthony), Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; Tuesday, Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-28; Wednesday, Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; Thursday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian), Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; Friday, Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; Saturday (St. Vincent), Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 23-29

Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 8:23-9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; Monday (St. Francis de Sales), Hebrews 9:15, 24-28, Mark 3:22-30; Tuesday (The conversion of Paul), Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; Wednesday (Sts. Timothy and Titus), Titus 1:1-5, Mark 4:1-20; Thursday (St. Angela Merici), Hebrews 10:19-25, Mark 4:21-25; Friday (St. Thomas Aquinas), Hebrews 10:32-39, Mark 4:26-34; Saturday, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 1:69-75, Mark 4:35-41.

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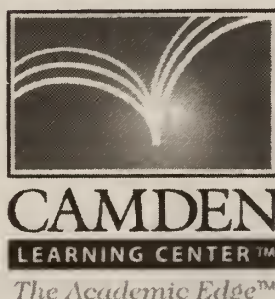
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Something to sing about

Catholic artist's 'Hymns' come from childhood

BY T. JENSEN LACEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman has penned songs for singers such as Faith Hill, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt and Trisha Yearwood, while also producing contemporary pop hits under her own name.

But her latest CD release titled "Hymns" has caused the music world to sit up and take notice.

"When I sing, I generally like to get out of the way of the song, to serve the song, and not my personality as a vocalist," Chapman said.

"This was particularly important to me in performing these beautiful hymns in Latin," she added. "There's a powerful vibration and clarity in the tones of the vowels and the melodies, and harmonies have a way of reaching through to the heart all by themselves."

Chapman said she is "all over the map" when it comes to genres, since she has written and sung pop, country, folk and blues.

"I was raised in a military family and I was exposed to a lot of other cultures," she said, "and that's kind of blended into my musicality."

Another thing that has influenced her CD "Hymns" is her Catholic upbringing. Chapman attends a number of churches in the Nashville area, often singing at St. Edward's Catholic Church when she's not traveling, and was raised Catholic.

She spoke about how the CD came

about: "I had been working on a project called 'World Hymns,' which is a collection of hymns from different paths of faith, each one in a different language, from the root of each religion. I had completed one in Sanskrit, one in Tibetan, a Shaker hymn, a Negro spiritual, and several others.

"As I was preparing to choose one of the many gorgeous Catholic hymns I grew up singing as a child, I was stunned to discover that I couldn't find a recorded collection of them anywhere," she added. "I decided it was a sign that I should record these songs from my root religion as a starting place."

Chapman recalled "standing between my parents and singing 'along, up close and personal," and said she decided that, "if nothing else, I would do a collection of my favorites for my mom and dad."

But she found a much wider audience for the collection of hymns.

After National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" show recently featured the CD, "there was this amazing response," Chapman reported.

"Within two days I had nearly 6,000 records ordered," she said. "Amazon.com had it listed as No. 3 on their sales chart, and on my Web page I've had so many e-mails from people from many religions, especially Catholics, who had such an emotional reaction to it."

"One e-mail came from someone who had once been an altar boy and (said he) could smell the incense within the first few bars of the song," she said.

A 'Love Song' barely worth singing



CNS PHOTO FROM LIONS GATE

Scarlett Johansson and John Travolta star in "A Love Song for Bobby Long," a lazily paced drama about a wayward teen-ager (Johansson) who moves in with a drunkard (Travolta) haunted by past sins, and his young protege, both of whom reform their broken lives to help her reclaim her future. An uneven film weighed down by Southern schmaltz, but imparts a redemptive message about family and forgiveness. Alcohol abuse and recurring rough and sexually crude language and humor, as well as some profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"He wrote he felt a connection to God for the first time in 49 years and that it brought back the mystery and beauty of the Mass from a simpler time."

Chapman's 23-year-old son, Ernest Chapman, sang the tenor parts on the CD, and her father, Robert Nielsen, sang bass on her rendition of Mozart's "Ave

Verum Corpus."

The 48-year-old artist said the songs she has written have been "like a chronicle of my life experiences."

"Writing my way through sometimes has been the only way to heal, as well as a way to express the good times," Chapman said. "The death of my husband to cancer in 1994 was a huge turning point in my life, and in the midst of that sorrow there have been gifts in going forward and deepening as a person."

"I wrote the song, 'Hymn to Mary,' which is the only song on the CD that is an original song," she said. "I felt abandoned by God, which was very unusual for me ... but writing that hymn took me to a place where Mary was, and always is waiting to help, and that helped me feel connected again."

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Prince of Peace Catholic Church
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680 W. Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30308-1984



Checkmate



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Ann School parent Carolyn Waterbury works with students involved in the school Chess Club. More than half the students at the kindergarten-through-fifth-grade school in Charlotte stay after school once a month to participate in a new series of clubs, including the Chess Club. Parents and professionals volunteer their time to teach a variety of topics, including yoga, pottery, woodworking, jewelry making, knitting, cooking, arts and crafts, science, gardening and creating a student newspaper.

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CSS gets inquiries for adopting tsunami orphans

ORPHANS, from page 1

“Because we do have a reputation as an international adoption agency, we have received calls from people with concerns about the orphans of the tsunami,” said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Social Services in Charlotte.

“As happens frequently when disasters happen — whether they be natural disasters or wars — and children are left abandoned, good-hearted people have concern for those children in need,” she said.

However, said Thurbee, adopting orphans from the countries affected by the earthquake and tsunamis will not be likely.

“I think the thing to be kept in mind, especially with these children, is that it will be many months before the countries can determine whether or not the parents are still alive, whether there are other family members who are still alive,” said Thurbee, “so the first effort to minister to the needs of these children will be to locate any family that they may have and to reunite them with that family.”

If it is determined that children are orphans, said Thurbee, the governments will see if there are any families within their own cultures who can take care of them.

“We certainly feel very positive about international adoption, but it is a resource available for children who have not been able to be placed with loving families within their own cultures,” said Thurbee. “Therefore, it is made available for those children because all of those other avenues have already been exhausted.”

If a country is considering allowing international adoption, said Thurbee, “one of the first groups to whom they will look to provide that would be reputable and certified agencies that already have a presence in that particular part of the world.”

However, she said, “some of the countries that are hardest hit are countries that do not have a history of international adoption and have no legal vehicle to allow that to happen.”

Protecting the victims

With attention now focused on aiding survivors, refugee assistance organizations are concerned about protecting vulnerable populations of people, including millions who had been displaced from their homes since long before December, as well as orphaned children.

In early January, amid reports of a surge in trafficking in children for slavery, governments in the tsunami-affected countries said they were taking steps to prevent the kidnapping of children who were orphaned or separated from their families.

Anastasia Brown, director of refugee programs for Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the Catholic Migration Commission staff in Indonesia was focusing on how to protect children who are vulnerable to traffickers.

“Catholic Social Services, as a part of the diocesan response, is encouraging people to donate funds to the tsunami relief,” said Thurbee. “Any funds donated to Catholic Social Services,

the parishes or the diocese will go to Catholic Relief Services.”

“We would encourage people to give to reputable charities that have programs in Asia,” she said.

Displaced before December

While Brown was thrilled there has been “such a terrific response to the tsunami” disaster, she noted that the countries hardest hit by the tsunamis — Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India — were providing refuge already to several million refugees.

According to the most recent report

of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, many people living in “temporary” refugee or displacement camps had been there for more than five years.

Besides causing the deaths of at least 150,000 people in 11 countries, the earthquake and tsunamis obliterated the homes of hundreds of thousands more, and destroyed the sources of employment for many.

The number of new orphans after the tsunamis “pales in comparison” to the number of children with no known relatives who are living in the world’s refugee camps, said Mark Franken, director of MRS.

Prior to the tsunamis, MRS had begun working with the U.S. government in an effort to provide permanent solutions for unaccompanied minors, he said.

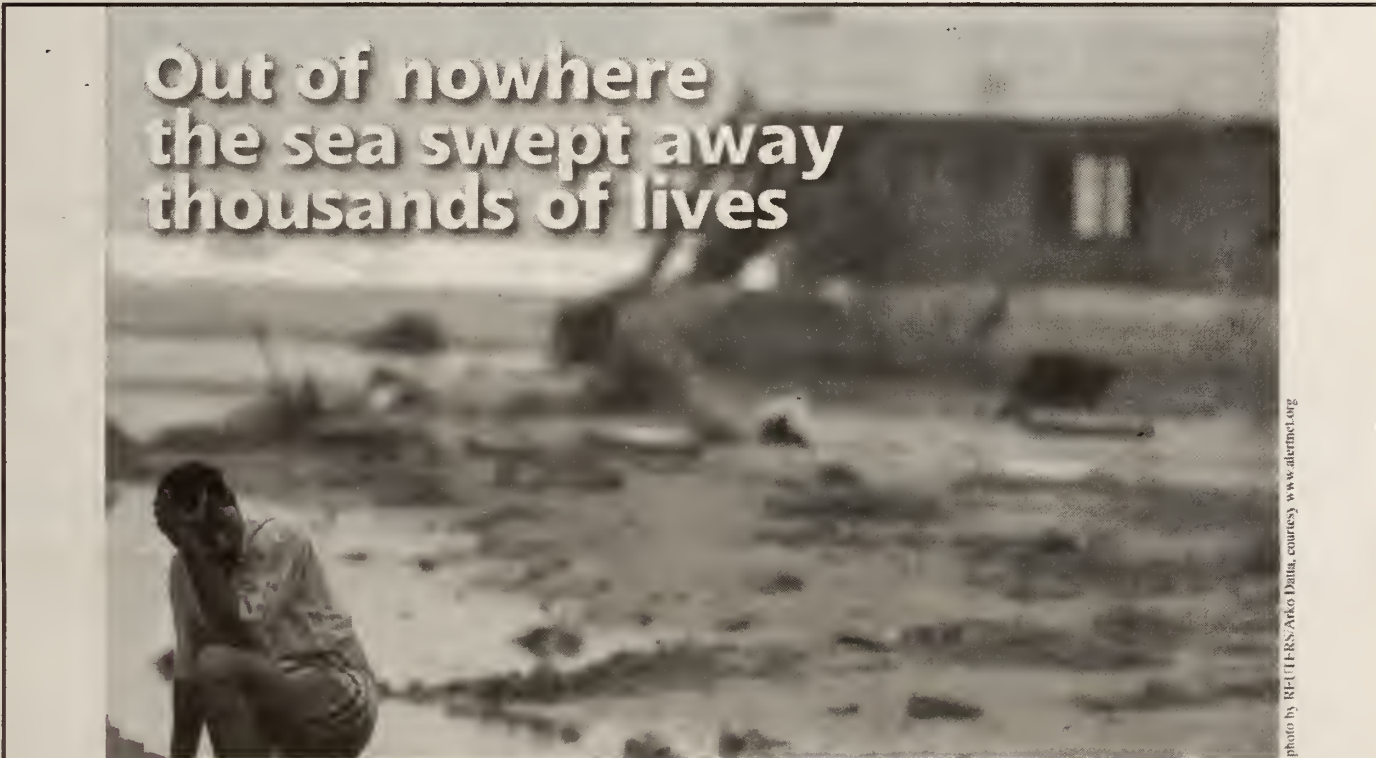
The distance between the United

States and the tsunami-affected areas makes it unlikely that survivors of the disaster will either attempt or be able to seek permanent refuge in the United States any time soon, migration experts said.

“Adoption is difficult anyway, because children lose their biological heritage,” said Thurbee. “If they also come out of the country and the culture that produced them, then they’ve lost their culture as well.”

“Our task would be to help those children remain in their own country and work to improve the standard of living in that country so that their lives would be better,” she said.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans and Catholic News Service contributed to this story.



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- 3) you may send your donation to: Catholic Relief Services, Attn: Tsunami Emergency Relief, P O Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Tsunami by another name

Humans have been taken away before

What if the tsunamis that hit South and Southeast Asia recently had happened in slow motion, flinging people as far away as our own backyards? What if that slow-motion event spread out over a number of years, allowing us to see those hands reaching out to us in desperation, hear those cries for help or see heads hung low in abject misery?

What would the world do then?

To my way of thinking, a tsunami of this sort has already happened, only it goes by another name: the slave trade that brought countless Africans to America in bondage centuries ago.

Like a giant wave, slave catchers descended upon unsuspecting men, women and youths, sweeping them away to foreign lands to a kind of living death bereft of love and family. Victims weren't pinned down by any resulting wreckage of buildings or trees; they were confined by chains and kept subservient by whips and threats of torture and heinous murder, by fear and shattered dreams.

Those who bore children knew that no amount of tears and pleading would spare their offspring from being sold "down river" if the price was right.

Like today's tsunami victims, always in their lives was water in its back-and-forth motion of giving — for drinking, bathing, relief in the baking sun — and taking away.

By the grace of God, countless descendants of the victims of the slave-trade tsunamis are alive today and still desirous of water that will nurture their lives. This is the water of education that can carry them out of ignorance and poverty to a higher ground where self-sufficiency allows them to be better citizens.

While there are those who don't see the need for Herculean efforts to save people still drowning figuratively, there are others who, thank God, disagree.

Recently the TV show "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly" presented a segment about philanthropist George Weiss who has given \$34 million to encourage poor, minority children to stay in school and go to college. He has teamed up with the University of Pennsylvania to facilitate his "Say Yes to

Bridging Gaps

CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
CNS COLUMNIST



Education" project.

The hundreds of kindergarteners selected to participate in Weiss' program "would not only get a free college education, but tutoring along the way, free summer schools, college financial aid for their siblings, even free legal services and continuing education for their parents," the report said.

Is Weiss giving too much? Or is the problem just so great that even more is needed?

Weiss has pledged another \$20 million to his project. He encourages others to contribute as well at www.sayyestoeducation.org.

In contrast, when the University of Georgia said it is considering a policy change that, if adopted, would allow it to use a student's race or ethnicity and other considerations apart from one's grade-point average to determine admissions, some of its students disagreed. They felt admissions should be "strictly merit-based."

What about the merit that comes with having achieved the status of being human, of having unduly suffered tremendous loss and being in need?

I applaud the wonderful outpouring of resources and heartfelt prayers for the victims of the Asian tsunamis whose devastations did not occur in slow motion. They hit at a rate of 500 miles per hour. Now every minute counts in the saving of lives!

I suspect that many of those naysayers of affirmative action and similar efforts to even the playing field for the descendants of the slave-trade tsunamis are among the most generous of these supporters.

The task that remains is to recognize a tsunami in all its hideous forms.

Pope says despite events Christians believe good will triumph

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Although life is complicated and worrying events continue to take place, Christians believe that God rules history and that good will triumph in the end, Pope John Paul II said.

From God the Father, Christ "has received royal power over the whole universe; in him the salvation, strength and kingdom of our God are completed," the pope said at his Jan. 12 general audience.

After the Christmas and New Year's festivities, the pope returned to his series of audience talks about psalms and canticles used in the church's evening prayer.

Looking at a hymn of joy and gratitude for God's saving power taken from the Book of Revelation, the pope said that while it tells of the judgment day it emphasizes God's desire to save all creation.

The hymns found in Revelation, he said, "have the function of illustrating the theme of the divine lordship

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II



that rules over the often troubling flux of human events."

God's judgment at the end of time not only will mark the final defeat of evil, but also will raise up and reward the just ones, the pope said.

"These are the 'servants' who adhere to divine law with fidelity; the 'prophets' entrusted with the revealed word, who interpret and judge history; the 'saints,' who are consecrated to God and respect his name, ready to adore him and obey his will," he said.

The heavenly hosts rejoice in the Book of Revelation, the pope said, because they know that "Satan, the ancient enemy," has no more power over humanity.

Prayers of petition

We cannot command God, only accept his will

Recently I read a letter to the editor expressing annoyance at a news story in the Catholic press. He chided teachers for encouraging their grammar school students to celebrate because the soldier for whom they had been praying returned home safely from the Iraq War.

He wrote: "Isn't it time that we put such notions to rest once and for all — a God who micromanages the universe, pulling strings like a puppeteer? A God with whom prayer sometimes works and sometimes doesn't work."

He went on: "Life is full of random, often opposing forces, and that all living creatures, including humans, get hurt, badly, even die — planes fall out of the sky, cancer invades an organ, babies die in the womb, bullets and bombs kill soldiers."

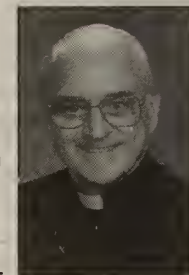
"None of this is orchestrated by a God-in-the-sky, and none of it is prevented in answer to prayer. Prayer doesn't change anything outside of ourselves."

The Lord Jesus taught a much different theology:

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it will be opened. What man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Mt 7:7-11)

When some prayers are not answered the way one would like, a true believer turns to the words of Jesus. He taught us to include in our petition the phrase "Thy will be done."

These are the words that he used during his agony in the Garden: "Not my will, but thine be done."

We cannot command God to obey us. We can only accept in faith what he sends, even if we do not fully understand it. For some there will be joy, for others disappointment.

St. Paul taught us to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not consider yourself to be wiser than you are" (Rom 12:15).

If you believe that Jesus is a divine person and that his words are true, then you have made the leap of faith. Be at peace. God does answer our prayers.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Abortion and Child Abuse — Part 2

Abused children likely to abort their children

Editor's note: Part 1 of Father Pavone's column appeared in the Dec. 3 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

In my previous column, I have pointed out that there is a mutual causality between abortion and child abuse. While this does not mean that everyone who was abused has an abortion, or that everyone who has an abortion will abuse their children, it does mean that there is significant correlation and influence both ways.

I have already looked at some reasons why having an abortion can lead to the abuse of other children. Here I will comment on why being abused or neglected as a child increases the likelihood that one will abort her own child.

The person who is abused or neglected as a child is deeply damaged, and the damage extends into adulthood. Because the damage is done in key areas of how one sees oneself, how one trusts others, how one views the parent-child relationship and what expectations one has about the world and the future, this damage obviously affects both the willingness and ability to give birth to and raise a child.

Guest Column

FATHER
FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



Life and hope are inextricably linked. To have the courage to say yes to new life requires hope, and hope is one of the most precious things that abuse and neglect destroy in their victims. If the hopes and dreams of the abused person are dashed, they see little hope for the future of their child, and hence abort that child.

Moreover, abuse and neglect make the person weaker both in body and mind. The abuse victim finds it harder to trust her body to bear stress or pain, and finds it harder to engage in mature and flexible thinking. For these reasons, she will often say that a pregnancy is "too much to go through."

Abortion seems like the easier option.

Fear of abandonment is another major factor. Children who have been neglected or abandoned are terrified it will happen again. Hence, a pregnant abuse victim is especially vulnerable to threats of abandonment from those demanding she abort. She may also fear that the child will abandon her, and would prefer to abort than to face that kind of abandonment.

A related problem is the parental relationship. A woman who was abused or neglected by her parents in childhood is not going to think that they will be present and supportive during her pregnancy. When she desperately needed help as a child, her parents did not help; hence, she is convinced they will not help now. This increases the temptation to abort.

Pregnancy and childbirth, moreover, catapult a person into the demands of adulthood. One who has been abused or neglected has, essentially, missed out on her childhood, and seeks to cling to or recover it. This increases the unwillingness to lose that childhood in yet another way, that is, by accepting the maturity demanded by parenthood. This is seen as losing one's last chance of being nurtured by a parent.

Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.

Keeping faith

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



TRUST FOSTERS HEALTHY SPIRIT, GIVES LIVES MEANING

"As I get older, I find it more and more difficult to keep my faith. All my childhood beliefs are being shattered."

Those comments of a friend are being echoed more frequently by many others. They feel that people and institutions they trusted are not living up to their word.

Much has happened recently to shake our faith. Sex abuse scandals have led some to leave the church. The reason for going to war with Iraq was based on intelligence reports that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction; to date, this has not been proven true.

Questions are being raised about the accomplishments of some athletes — whether these are true accomplishments at all. And many once-respected CEOs have turned out to be frauds whose dealings harmed a great many people.

To make matters worse, we have seen a proliferation of books and documentaries questioning the veracity of Scripture.

How do we keep our faith in the midst of all this?

First, remember that faith doesn't remain static. It experiences ups and downs. Take for example marriage, in which couples pledge undying faith in each other. As they live together day in and day out, patience, trust and love may be tested, but for many it will be restored.

When we look deeper, we discover another rule of faith: Love is the driving force behind faith. Often we hear spouses say, "He [she] can't always be counted on, but I still love him [her]." They take the weaknesses with the strengths for reasons based in love.

Almost everything one deeply believes in will get tested by disappointments. These hurts and anger force us to realize the critical role love plays in faith.

Furthermore, we experience this pain because we relish trust, which fulfills our desire to be at one with others. This gives our lives meaning; it is healthy for our spirit.

Another rule of faith: Don't allow a broken trust to deteriorate into a divorce from an institution or a person! Becoming isolated, separated and withdrawn are bad for the spirit.

When we break relations, our affections wither and we end up carrying a heavy chip on our shoulders. We literally put ourselves at risk of becoming spiritually, psychologically and physically ugly.

One final rule: Faith, like life, requires a series of "patching-ups" and commitments. When it seems that faith is being tested or threatened, this rule counsels us:

Let life begin anew, and start by working on your own spirit, which relies on faith and love as its fuel.

It's not broken, don't fix it

Social Security's future depends on us

After multiple sclerosis crippled my father and made him quit work, the family drew Social Security Disability Insurance. Some years later, my father joked about how the government finally cured him. He showed me a letter he got from the Social Security Administration that read, "Dear Mr. Rausch, with your 65th birthday, you are no longer disabled. You are retired."

But, his retirement lasted only 15 days. Two weeks after his birthday, he suffered a heart attack and died. With that, his check came to my 69-year old widowed mother.

Social Security arrived when I was 11 and my sisters were teen-agers. It gave my family stability when it faced the crisis of my father's illness, and afforded my mother dignity in her senior years. Today, more than 47 million benefit from Social Security, the Old Age Survivors and Disability Insurance program, many of whom reflect my own family's history.

In 2004, the Social Security Administration crunched the numbers and targeted 2042 as the year the trust fund would hit zero balance. Political opportunists seized the projections to promote their own agenda — privatization. For people of faith, the current alleged crisis pits the ideology of rugged individualism (neo-liberalism) against the concept of community proclaimed by the social teachings of the church.

Consider these ideas for the current debate:

— Social Security appears as strong as ever. In 1996, Social Security's trust-

ees projected a zero fund balance by 2030. In 2000, they adjusted the projection to 2036, and today it's 2042. Projections keep changing because the trustees continue to make unrealistic, low-end assumptions about future economic conditions, like a GDP average growth of just 1.8 percent for the next 75 years.

If the economy grows at a more realistic 2.4 percent annual rate, the increase in real output and real incomes will insure the trust fund never going to zero. The opportunists have hysterically changed public policy from "keep an eye on it" to "the sky is falling."

— Privatization will transform Social Security from insurance to risk taking. By investing part of their Social Security money in private accounts, younger workers are enticed by promises of better returns at retirement. Current wisdom: investors do far worse than the market generally. Retirement money will fluctuate with poor investing or a declining market. Privatization threatens communal justice by changing "we're all in this together," to "every man for himself."

— Finally, privatization will produce great profits for banks and brokerage houses, but reduced benefits for Social Security beneficiaries. To track the proposed millions of private accounts, administrative costs that cut into benefits will rise tenfold, if handled by a single government-managed system, and possibly thirty-fold, if by private financial institutions.

Currently, Social Security administrative costs represent less than 0.6 per-

Faith and the Marketplace

GLENMARY
FATHER JOHN
S. RAUSCH



cent of annual benefits.

The debate about privatization can find economists with numbers to support either side. Yet, neither side can deny critical decision-making time remains decades away. Meantime, merely mid-course corrections and slight policy adjustments of Social Security "can keep an eye on it."

Preserving Social Security represents the safety net that has lifted 1 million children out of poverty and helped another million avoid extreme poverty (living below half the poverty line). Today, about 10 percent of seniors over age 65 live in poverty. Without Social Security, that rate would climb to 50 percent.

The proponents of privatization are framing an important question: what kind of society do we want to create — one based on exaggerated self-reliance, or a community of care encouraged by the Gospel?

Father Rausch is a syndicated columnist in Berea, Ky.

Queen of the Apostles Church has significant history in Gaston County

QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES CHURCH
503 N. Main Street
Belmont, N.C. 28012
(704) 739-3214

Vicariate: Gastonia
Pastor: Oblate Father Joseph C. Zuschmidt
Number of Households: 440



Oblate Father
Joseph C. Zuschmidt



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Since its founding in 1965, Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont has served as the hub of spiritual life for many Gaston County Catholics, as well as an outreach center for many in the community.

BELMONT — Under the shadow of the seat of the Diocese of Charlotte and Belmont Abbey, Queen of the Apostles Church has provided a spiritual home for Gaston County Catholics since its dedication in March 1965. Although the parish community is relatively small in size, Queen of the Apostles Church's parish boundaries cover a large part of Gaston County, extending into western Mecklenburg County.

While Queen of the Apostles Church was founded as a parish of the diocese rather than that of Belmont Abbey — which to this day falls under no diocesan jurisdiction — its parishioners thank the Benedictines for their assistance in indirectly establishing the parish.

The abbey cathedral was the only active church for Belmont-area Catholics until 1965, when plans to establish a diocesan parish came to fruition. Named Queen of the Apostles Church, the church was the converted gymnasium of a boarding school for boys, while an addition was built to include a sacristy, rectory and office.

Shortly after the church's establishment, Queen of Apostles parishioners were given a duty of significant historical value: custodial care of the Church of Sts. Joseph and Mary in nearby Mount

Holly. Although liturgical activities had been suspended in the small church in the late 1800s, St. Joseph was restored in the mid-1970s under the direction of then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of the recently created Diocese of Charlotte.

Today St. Joseph Church is used for special occasions such as the feast of St. Joseph. The U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of North Carolina declared the church a national historical site in 1979.

In 1991, then-Bishop John F. Donoghue granted permission for construction on a parish center for Queen of the Apostles Church. The two new buildings — a parish family center and a classroom center — were dedicated in February 1992.

Queen of the Apostles Church has

been blessed with many dedicated pastors over the years, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, Father Richard Hokanson, Father Edward Malloy, Msgr. John McSweeney and Msgr. Thomas Burke.

Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt has served as pastor since May 1, 2003. He is continually impressed with the commitment, enthusiasm and hospitality of his parishioners.

Outreach being a continuing effort of the parish, Queen of the Apostles Church stands as a testimony of the enterprising evangelical spirit of Catholicism in North Carolina's history and its present. Ecumenical bonds are maintained through such efforts as the Gaston County Nutritional Program, which uses the parish's family center to provide and deliver meals to those in need. Parishioners distribute food to the needy of Belmont from the church's food pantry as well.

The church also maintains active ties with the Belmont Community Organization, which offers help to the needy in Belmont by providing clothing and financial assistance for utilities, medicine and food.

The parish displays a keen sense of outreach to the organization operated by the Sisters of Mercy, including volunteer work at Catherine's House, Holy Angels and House of Mercy.

Another ecumenical program initiated by Queen of the Apostles Church is the interfaith prayer for peace service, where people of all faith meet at a different house of worship in Gaston County each month to share their experiences and pray for peace.

Along with normal parish activities, such as adult faith formation and Bible sharing, Queen of the Apostles Church has a parish nurse who works with other churches in the Belmont area.

The parish continues to maintain its historical ties with Belmont Abbey through periodic assistance from the Benedictine monks for reconciliation services and weekend liturgical activities when the pastor is unavailable.

A chapel for perpetual adoration of the Eucharist, located on the abbey grounds, was established by former pastor Msgr. Thomas Burke. Members of the college community join parishioners of Queen of the Apostles Church in daily adoration.

On Jan. 9, Bishop Jugis rededicated the church's parish life center in honor of Msgr. Kovacic, in recognition of his nine years as pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church. The day's events also celebrated Msgr. Kovacic's 85th birthday.

"Msgr. Kovacic is a beloved shepherd and friend to the parish of Queen of Apostles," said Father Zuschmidt. "In honor of the occasion of his birthday, we are rededicating the center to him, since he built it."

"Queen of the Apostles Church is also in the shadows of the abbey and the Sisters of Mercy," said Father Zuschmidt. "While proud of our connections to all of them, we are also proud to be a viable parish in our own right, fully equipped and able to minister to the Catholics of Belmont, Mount Holly and beyond."

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

RELATED STORY

For more information about the birthday celebration for Msgr. Kovacic and the rededication of the parish life center, see story page 1.

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**Year of the
Eucharist**

Passover to Paschal Mystery;
Special indulgences for Catholics

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VOLUME 14 Nº 16

DSA 2005

'We are the hands of Christ'

Annual appeal to bring
God's love to many

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Every day, in every corner of the Diocese of Charlotte, people serve as the hands of Christ.

A family adopting children from China. A parish reaching out to welcome Hispanics into the fold. A young man studying for the priesthood so he can serve God and others.

Through your support of the Diocesan Support Appeal, these are just a few examples of how people in the Diocese of Charlotte serve as "the hands of Christ."

"As good and grateful stewards of God's many gifts, we are called to share what we have with others," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis in a January letter announcing the 2005 Diocesan Support Appeal, themed "We are the hands of Christ," which runs Jan. 30-March 15.

"Our hands reach out and touch the lives of thousands of our brothers and sisters as we feed, console, heal, teach and counsel through 36 DSA-funded agencies

See DSA, page 9



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The poster for the 2005 Diocesan Support Appeal, themed "We are the hands of Christ," represents how a variety of people throughout the Diocese of Charlotte serve daily as the "hands of Christ."

Pipe dream or future reality?

PANEL DISCUSSES
RACIAL UNITY,
HARMONY

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Is true unity among the different races possible in the United States? A group of panelists recently tackled this issue at "A Vision of Racial Unity: What Will It Take?" — an event sponsored by the social justice committee of St. Peter Church Jan. 5.

"Recently, there has been a splintering of the communities (along racial lines)," said Robert Cook, a member of St. Peter Church's social justice committee. "We were integrating, especially in our schools ... now we're moving toward more

See UNITY, page 6

TSUNAMI RELIEF

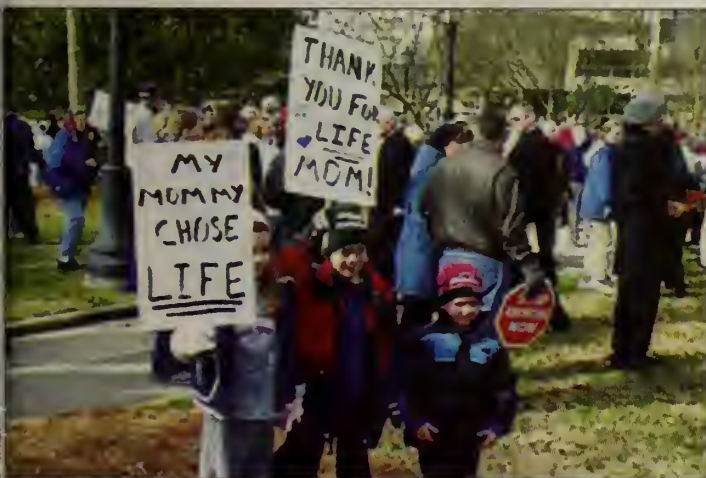
Catholic students raise thousands for tsunami victims

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Students from across the Diocese of Charlotte have started the new year with an unscheduled service project — raising thousands of dollars to help people on the other side of the world.

The tsunamis that struck 11 Asian countries on Dec. 26, 2004 killed more than 225,000 people and have left more than 46,000 children

See TSUNAMI, page 13



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER T. YORPE

Children hold pro-life placards at the Rally for Life in Raleigh Jan. 15.

RALLYING FOR LIFE

Bishop Jugis, others participate in rally, march for life in Raleigh

BY FLORA SMITH
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

RALEIGH — Bishop Peter J. Jugis was among the hundreds of people braving the cold to march for pro-life awareness.

Bishop Jugis gave the invocation to more than 500 people during the Rally for Life at Nash Square Jan. 15. Sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life, the

rally preceded the March for Life, during which participants, led by Knights of Columbus, marched through the streets of downtown Raleigh, carrying pro-life banners, toward Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Bishop Jugis, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh and clergy and laity from the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh were among those marching.

See RALLY, page 12

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DSA 2005

Turning dreams into reality;
parish goals; ministries budgets

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Defining laicization; e-mails;
media accountability

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Archbishop of Atlanta

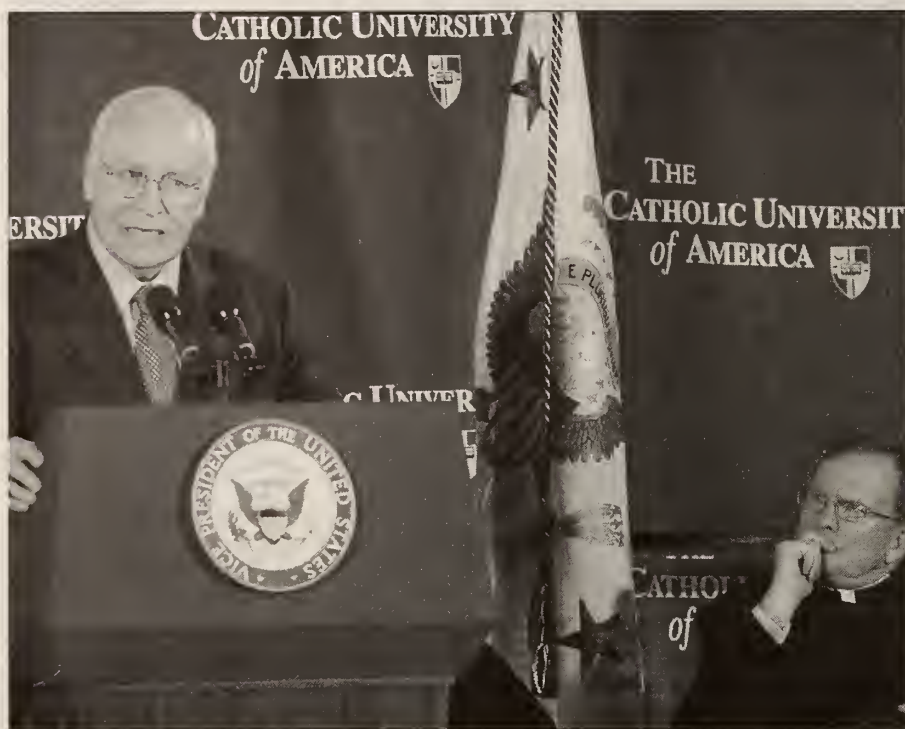
Diverse crowd gathers for installation of Archbishop Gregory

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HOT TOPICS



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

The president of The Catholic University of America, Vincentian Father David M. O'Connell, listens as U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney delivers remarks on Social Security Jan. 13 in Washington.

Cheney backs Social Security changes in speech at Catholic University

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Vice President Dick Cheney told an audience at The Catholic University of America in Washington Jan. 13 that the administration's plan to change Social Security could yield greater retirement benefits for those who invest in the stock market.

Two days after President George W. Bush launched a campaign to fundamentally change the Social Security program with the claim that the system is headed toward bankruptcy, Cheney reiterated many of the president's points and disputed critics of the proposals.

For example, Cheney said the answer to concerns about the financial risks posed by workers withdrawing from Social Security in favor of personal investment accounts "is simply to set guidelines, basic standards of safety and soundness when it comes to investment choices."

Cheney said investment in the stock market can yield more substan-

tial savings than a worker could earn through Social Security, and called securities markets "the best, safest way to build substantial personal savings."

"The charge has also been made that President Bush wants to push everyone into personal accounts," Cheney said. Personal accounts would be "a voluntary option," he said.

"Much of it comes down to a matter of trust — whether a citizen would prefer to rely on the federal government to control every aspect of his or her retirement; or would choose to be the owner, free and clear, of their own retirement nest egg," he said.

About 200 people were invited to the 15-minute program, during which Cheney took no questions. The White House invited about three-fourths of the audience, including students affiliated with groups such as college-age Republicans and the Heritage Foundation. About 50 Catholic University students, faculty and staff members were invited by the school's administration.

Educators told Vatican has approved National Directory for Catechesis

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, Md. (CNS) — The Vatican has approved the U.S. National Directory for Catechesis and it is scheduled to be published in May, Catholic educators were told Jan. 10 at a national symposium on the directory.

The publication of the new directory will mark "a promising new moment for the church in the United States," Bishop Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, Ohio, told the gathering of about a dozen bishops and nearly 200 leaders from diocesan religious education offices across the country.

Calling the new directory an important step in "the ongoing renewal of catechesis" in the United States, Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh said, "It should be a time of great optimism for us."

The directory, adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the summer of 2003, replaces "Sharing the

Light of Faith," the catechetical directory adopted by the U.S. bishops in 1977 and approved by the Vatican in 1979.

The new directory reflects significant changes in catechetics since the 1970s, including the emphasis throughout the church in recent years on placing catechesis more clearly within the framework of the church's fundamental mission of evangelization.

The new document also reflects changes brought by the publication of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" in 1992 and a new General Directory for Catechesis issued by the Vatican in 1997.

May 1 is the target date for the directory's publication. A leader's guide and two summaries of the directory will also be made available for publication in diocesan newspapers or parish bulletins to inform the general Catholic public.

The directory and related materials will also be published in Spanish as soon as possible.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to compete in the annual *Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest*. The event will take place Jan. 30, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. age group winners will advance to the district competition in February. For more information, call Dave Underwood at (704) 553-8220.

CHARLOTTE — *Catholics Returning Home*, a program for non-practicing or part-time Catholics, will be offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., through Feb. 22. Topics will include The Catholic Church Today — Changes Since Vatican II; The Creed — What Catholics Believe; The Mass — Walk Through & Explanations; Confession/Reconciliation; and Catholic Spirituality (Scripted vs. Charismatic Prayer). All meetings will include a question-and-answer session. For more information, contact Ed Powers at (704) 553-7273.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark

Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — Would you like to learn more about your Catholic faith, but are unable to attend a class every week? *Catholic Update* meets Mondays, 5-6:15 p.m. and Tuesdays, 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the New Life Center Room 102 of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a drop-in class that will cover a new topic of interest each week. Each participant will receive a *Catholic Update* from St. Anthony Messenger Press to keep. Pre-registration is not necessary. Childcare is available by reservation by calling (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for caregivers of a family member with memory loss meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. Charlotte, NC 28226, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican says pope to attend World Youth Day, but won't visit Poland

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While Polish church leaders have spoken for months about a possible papal trip to their country in 2005, the Vatican spokesman said it would not happen.

"A trip by the Holy Father to Poland, a country where elections will be held in 2005, is not foreseen for this year," said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, papal spokesman.

In a Jan. 12 statement, he said, "however, I confirm the trip of the Holy Father to Cologne (Germany) for World Youth Day."

The pope is scheduled to join young people from around the world Aug. 18 in the German city and to remain with them until after the Aug. 21 celebration of the World Youth Day closing Mass.

Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp of

Warsaw, speaking to reporters after visiting Rome in early November, said hopes for a papal visit should be "accompanied by realism" in view of the pope's health, but he said the pope was "expressing a willingness" to travel home.

Vatican official says Catholic press helps with sense of community

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic press can help build a sense of community by helping individuals realize they are not alone in practicing their faith, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley.

Catholic newspapers not only pro-

vide "authentic information about the church and society," but they also form "a true sense of Catholic community," he said.

They make "us realize that we are not alone in practicing our faith" and provide "good ideas about how we might be able to strengthen our faith and share it with others," he added.

Archbishop Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, made his remarks Jan. 12 in an address to communications professionals in Accra, Ghana. The council released the archbishop's written remarks at the Vatican the same day.

When it comes to using the press as an instrument of evangelization, Catholic journalists are called to lead exem-

plary lives, he said.

If not, "many people will not listen to our message, because the messenger himself or herself appears to lack credibility," he said.

Living a saintly life is the best kind of public relations the Catholic media can offer, he said.

"Mother Teresa is a much better argument for the Christian life than is an advertising campaign," he added.

Finally, Catholic communicators must always be "open, truthful and accessible," he said.

People "will not listen to the good news we seek to share unless we are honest with them about the unfortunate bad news that sometimes occurs," said the archbishop.

Model visit



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Members of the Ferrari Formula One team present Pope John Paul II with a scale model of the car that won Ferrari two top racing titles in 2004. The group met with the pope at the Vatican Jan. 17. From left are Luca Badoer, German driver Michael Schumacher, Piero Lardi Ferrari, Ferrari president Luca Cordero di Montezemolo, Ferrari team manager Jean Todt and Brazilian driver Rubens Barrichello.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is planning a covered-dish luncheon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. on Jan. 26, 12-2 p.m. Rabbi Fred Guttman of Temple Emanuel will present the program. Please bring your favorite dish to share with friends. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church is offering a free eight-week *Spanish Class* beginning Jan. 27. Classes meet Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. at IHM School, 605 Barbee Ave. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 869-7739 or e-mail Larry Kwan at hlkw@lexcominc.net.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will celebrate the first anniversary of its *Spanish Mass*, Jan. 30, 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the IHM Church Gathering Space. All are invited to enjoy food, fun, fellowship, music and entertainment. The Evangelization Commission will be raffling door prizes and has organized games for the children. Special performances will be offered by Los Viejos Dance Ensemble, vocalist Adarely Lopez, Freddy and his Flamenco guitar, and the IHM School chorus. For more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — Do you long for healing in your life? Healing from loss, grief, crisis, loneliness or any other sufferings? Learn how suffering can be a source of grace in your life and the lives of others. Loretta Bedner, regional director of the deSales Spirituality Center, will present "Healing Our Deepest Wounds" Feb. 4, 7-9 p.m. and Feb. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St. A Spanish presentation is also available. Seating is limited. To reserve your space, request the Spanish presentation, or reserve childcare, please call Larry Kwan at (336) 882-7204 or Jane Hughes at (336) 882-3393 by January 31.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, will host *Landings*, an outreach program for those who have left the Catholic Church and are thinking of returning. Landings consists of 10 sessions during which small faith sharing groups consisting of active laypeople from the parish gather to listen and help support those who are on their faith journey back. Landings will meet Monday evenings, through March 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating should call Bonnie Tamrack, at (828) 994-2233.

HICKORY — There will be a *Cursillo Retreat* Jan. 28-29 at the Catholic Conference Center. The program starts Friday at 7 p.m. with Mass, meditation and social time. Saturday activities include Mass, School of Leaders, workshops, men's team meeting and more. All Cursillistas are welcome. E-mail bmayer@alltel.net if interested in attending.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 23-24
March for Life
Washington, D.C.
Jan. 26-27
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
Philadelphia, Penn.
Jan. 30 — 2:30 p.m. Mass
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Jan. 31 — 9 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick School, Charlotte
Feb. 2 — 9:45 a.m. Mass
Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro
Feb. 3 — 10:30 a.m. Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

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High Point church to celebrate first anniversary of Spanish-language Mass

HIGH POINT — People in the Diocese of Charlotte are invited to enjoy food, fun, fellowship and music as Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point celebrates the first anniversary of its Sunday afternoon Spanish-language Mass.

The event will take place in the church Gathering Space Jan. 30.

The parish Evangelization Commission, which is sponsoring the event, will be raffling door prizes and has organized games for children.

Special performances will be offered by Los Viejos Dance Ensemble, vocalist Adarely Lopez, Freddy and his Flamenco guitar, and

the Immaculate Heart of Mary School chorus.

The event is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending are asked to bring their favorite dish to share.

WANT TO GO?

The celebration takes place at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson Street, High Point, 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 30. For more information, call the church at (336) 869-7739.

72 YEARS OF SERVICE

Six Sisters of St. Joseph remembered for early mission work in N.C.

PHILADELPHIA — In the past 14 months, six Sisters of St. Joseph from Philadelphia, Pa., who served in the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, have died.

Their ministry in North Carolina began in 1943 at the request of the late Bishop Eugene L. McGuinness. The first assignment for the sisters was St. Leo the Great Church and School in Winston-Salem.

Three of the sisters tutored and taught at Villa Maria Anna Academy and then the new St. Leo the Great School. They also taught faith formation in the parish, as well as in several other parishes in the diocese.

They were: Sister Michael Edward Martin, who taught first grade at St. Leo the Great School 1944-1955, died Jan. 27, 2004; Sister Rose Philippine Smith, who taught second grade at St. Leo the Great School 1949-1967, died Oct. 9, 2003; and Sister St. Hilda Clark, who taught third grade at St. Leo the Great School 1949-1961, died April 26, 2004.

The other sisters were: Sister Borgia Stack, who was principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point 1960-1966, died Oct. 17, 2004; Sister Paschal Cooper, who was principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School 1967-1973, died Dec. 8, 2004; and Sister Ann Hannan, teacher and parish worker at St. Ann Church and School in Charlotte 1973-1992, died April 29, 2004.

All six sisters died at St. Joseph Villa, a retirement home of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and were buried in the community cemetery. They gave a total of 72 years of service to the dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte — the Diocese of Charlotte was founded in 1972.

Many of those early years were when North Carolina's Catholic population numbered less than one-quarter of 1 percent.

Memorials may be sent in the sisters' names to: St. Joseph Villa, 110 W. Wissahickon Ave., Flourtown, PA 19031.

UNC-Asheville chancellor to step down in May

Mullen to lead Catholic liberal arts college in Mass.

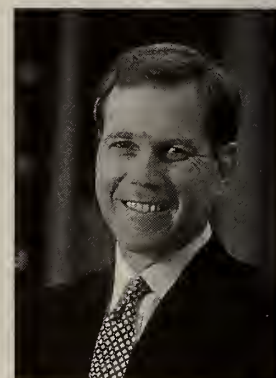
ASHEVILLE — James Mullen Jr., chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, announced Dec. 9 that he will step down from that office in May 2005 to become president of The College of Our Lady of the Elms, a Catholic liberal arts college in Chicopee, Mass.

"The presidency at Elms College calls me home to my roots and to serve my faith," said Mullen. "It is a presidency that I have accepted because it represents a singular call to return home and help a Catholic college that I know well to achieve its full measure."

Mullen will have served for six years as chancellor when he departs in May. During his tenure at UNC-Asheville, the liberal arts university has seen growth in its student population.

"I am saddened by Jim's departure, but I am grateful for the time he and his family shared with this community," said Sue McClinton, chair of the UNC-Asheville board of trustees. "His mark on this campus and this state can perhaps most eloquently be summarized by the strength of his relationship with students — for in them he vested his trust and hopes for the future."

A search committee for the university's next chancellor will be appointed within a few weeks. The goal will be to have a new chancellor selected and in place by fall, according to Molly Corbett Broad, University of North Carolina president.



James Mullen Jr.

A native of western Massachusetts Mullen attended and holds degrees from the College of the Holy Cross, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Prior to his appointment at UNC-Asheville in April 1999, Mullen was vice president of Trinity College, a liberal arts college in Hartford, Conn.

The College of Our Lady of the Elms, founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, is located near Mullen's hometown of Holyoke, Mass. The 650-student liberal arts college seeks to combine education for life with education for a career. Mullen's appointment was approved by the Elms College board of trustees Dec. 6, 2004.

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BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — Five years ago, Rachel Elise Adams was working five part-time jobs and making and selling herbal body-care products.

"I was so distraught because I worked so many jobs," Adams said. "I failed badly in my business."

Today, her business, Blue Moon Elise (formerly Blue Moon Herbs) is growing — seeded with help from the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Economic Opportunity/Catholic Social Services, which receives funds from the Diocesan Support Appeal.

A few years ago, health problems seemed to indicate Adams, 26, needed surgery. Deciding against that, she looked for alternatives and eventually studied at the North Carolina School of Natural Healing in Asheville.

She became adamant about using products without chemicals or preservatives and started Blue Moon Herbs in 1999 to produce 100-percent synthetic-free body-care products.

"My passion when I started was that I really wanted to affect the health of people and the planet in a small way that had a larger affect," Adams said.

Getting started wasn't easy. She worked several jobs during the day. She spent evenings crafting her herbal soaps, bath salts and other products at home.

When she first learned of ABLE



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Rachel Adams (right) talks with customer Mary Beth Cornwell at Blue Moon Elise, Adams' herbal body-care-products shop in Murphy.

(Assets Building Long-Term Equity), she was suspicious.

The ABLE program started with funding from the Diocese of Charlotte and grants from the Duke Endowment and the North Carolina Department of Labor. The Office of Economic Opportunity in the Bishop Begley Center in Murphy administers the ABLE Matched Savings Program, designed for low-income people in Cherokee, Clay,

Graham and Swain counties who want to improve or start small businesses, buy homes or obtain further education.

When an individual joins the program and saves \$1,000, for instance, ABLE will contribute double the savings for a total of \$3,000.

ABLE partners with the Mountain Micro Enterprise Fund (MMF), which offers a seven-week course to teach business skills and determine if the business proposal is sound.

"When I first heard about ABLE, I thought it was a hoax," she said. "Why would anybody match my money twice?"

Kim Crisp of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Kelly Long of the MMF convinced her to try.

"It was the answer to a prayer,"

said Adams.

ABLE participants must save \$20 a month, but Adams saved \$100 a month, earning the ABLE matching funds in less than a year. Then she hesitated.

"When the money became available, I didn't use it right away," she said. "That's where (the Mountain Micro Enterprise Fund) helped me with a business plan."

Adams opened a shop near Murphy's main business area in October 2003. She also began advertising on the Internet.

Within six weeks, she was working 16-hour days to fill incoming orders. In May 2004 she opened a 1,900-square-foot shop in Murphy.

In addition to her own line of products, Adams sells all-natural bath and beauty goods from other manufacturers.

She still calls MMF and Joan Furst, Office of Economic Opportunity's director, when she needs advice.

"Joan comes in to check on me to see how I'm doing," Adams said. "I feel like I have professional advice; I don't feel so alone. They treat me as a professional."

"This is an indirect example of how contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal help make a difference in the lives of people across the Diocese of Charlotte," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the diocese.

"While the seed money Rachel needed to start her business came from grant sources, the support provided by the Office of Economic Opportunity came in part from DSA contributions," said Gaddy.

The 2005 DSA, which runs Jan. 30-March 15, helps fund 36 ministries and agencies throughout the diocese.



The Office of Economic Opportunity is one of 36 ministries funded in part through the Diocesan Support Appeal that helps serve as the "hands of Christ."

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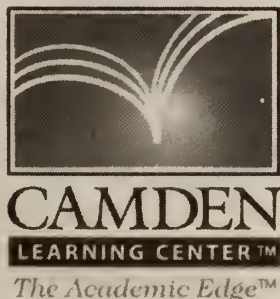


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FROM THE COVER

Panel discusses racial unity

UNITY, from page 1

segregation and away from the ideals of the civil rights movement."

According to Cook, one way to improve relations between the many races living in the United States is to start talking candidly about issues, especially misconceptions.

"It's not easy, but it's the only thing that will get us past the status quo," he said.

No easy solutions

The power white people are born into is part of the problem, according to Toni Tupponce, past chair of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry and a board member of Catholic Social Services. She is a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

"Power is intoxicating and addictive," she said. "European Americans are born into power, and they are unwilling to give it up (through programs like affirmative action)."

"It can get in the way of harmony, when someone needs to take a subordinate role (in order that) another voice can be heard," she said.

"People must risk standing up for what they know is right, even if they might face scorn," Tupponce said.

Tupponce suggested that one way to promote racial harmony is for people

to become involved in another neighborhood's projects and activities. She emphasized that one-time projects helping a family or an area are not effective in creating harmony. A "hand up," rather than a handout, provides more assistance in the long run.

There are no practical approaches to dealing with issues of racism and "classism," Tupponce said.

"It begins with you once you decide that you're willing to 'take the knock' that will come with taking a stance," she said. "Not because it looks good or is politically correct, but because it's the right thing to do."

"Then you're going to influence someone else," Tupponce continued. "You don't even have to talk about it — just do it."

"I have the sense that a lot of people believe the 'heyday' of trying to work on race relations is over," said the Rev. Andy Baxter, executive director of Mecklenburg Ministries. "It's hard to find language that makes people who are not already on board want to get on board."

Rev. Baxter, an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church, urges white people to ask themselves, "What does racism do to you as a white person? What did growing up white do to you spiritually?"

Once people consider this question, people of all races can work together in more authentic ways, he said. In order to

achieve racial harmony, white people must be willing to give up their seats as board members and make an effort to do business with minority business owners.

One person's example will influence others in a positive manner, Tupponce said.

"When the battle for racial justice becomes a matter of people's attitudes and personal prejudices, you might lose the sense of the larger, systemic issues," said Rev. Baxter.

"A large number of people seem to have a problem with the issue of racial unity in general," said Rev. Baxter. Many people prefer the term "racial harmony," suggested by Tupponce.

Tupponce emphasized the importance of harmony among races, more so than unity, which can encourage or even force people to abandon their native cultures.

"It can get in the way of harmony when someone needs to take a subordinate role (in order that) another voice can be heard," she said.

"When we do get together to dialogue, I think it would be interesting if we started from the premise that we are more different than we are the same," said Rev. Baxter.

Although many of the people who gathered for the panel discussion disagreed with Rev. Baxter's assertion, he said, "The spirit of that (statement) is that I have noticed that when I am in these types of discussions, people,

especially whites, feel such a need to condemn prejudice and racism that there is a sense that acknowledging cultural differences is wrong."

Faith: Cure or disease?

Studies conducted in several cities, including Charlotte, showed that a large percentage of people involved in "faith-based engagement" have the worst scores in interracial trust. Faith-based engagement refers to active involvement in religious activity.

Of 40 metropolitan areas surveyed in 2002, Charlotte and its 13 surrounding counties ranked 39th in interracial trust and fourth in faith-based engagement.

"Across the country, there seems to be an inverse correlation between the amount of faith-based engagement in a community and interracial trust," said Rev. Baxter.

Rev. Baxter said he personally does not completely understand the correlation interracial trust and faith-based engagement, but presented the idea for consideration during the panel discussion.

"I would prefer it if that were not the case, but it comes up enough in studies that it should give pause to people," he said. "Something is not going right in the way we (operate our) churches."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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From the Passover to the Paschal Mystery

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 4

Over the past three weeks, we have reiterated that the goal or purpose of the Mass is to worship God as perfectly as we are able. If our goal is to worship God as perfectly as possible, it would make sense that he would teach us how, even demonstrate the way it is to be done; it would make sense that he would provide us with an accurate method that is pleasing to him.

That is why last week we recognized that God is the author and the legislator of sacred ritual. As Christians, we always follow the example of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus is God, he has divine authority to establish and demonstrate the type of worship that is most pleasing to the Father; as man, he perfectly accomplishes it on our behalf and left us an example to follow.

So, what did Christ establish as the perfect worship and how did he do it?

We read in sacred Scripture that on the night before he died, he celebrated the Passover with his apostles. During the meal, our Lord fulfilled the meaning of the Passover and instituted the new and everlasting covenant. The Last Supper became the first Mass. Since the Passover formed the context of the first Mass, we need to look for a moment at the significance of the Passover.

In the Old Testament book of Exodus, we read that after the Israelites were enslaved to the Egyptians for 400 years, Moses negotiated with Pharaoh for the release of the Israelite slaves from bondage. Before the final plague, the death of the first-born, God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to kill the Passover lamb, to take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood, and spread the lamb's blood over the doorposts of their houses.

That evening, when the destroyer arrived to slay the first borns in the land of Egypt, he passed over the houses of the Israelites and killed the first borns of the land of Egypt. Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go — they were saved, released from bondage.

Consequently, God instituted the Passover as an annual memorial to remind the Jews that God delivered them from slavery to freedom. In the Old Testament, God instructed his

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



people how to worship him through the re-presentation of the Passover.

And in the New Testament, God himself would fulfill the meaning of the Passover by bringing it to its completion in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We read in sacred Scripture that during the Passover meal, "the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me' (I Cor. 11:23-25)."

The Passover meal is now fulfilled. In the Old Testament, the Jews sacrificed the Passover lamb. They ate the flesh of the lamb and its blood saved them from political slavery. In the New Testament, Jesus sacrificed himself as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." He offers to us his flesh to eat and his blood delivers us from the spiritual slavery of sin.

In the Old Testament, God instructed his people how to worship him through the re-presentation of the Passover. In the New Testament, the son of God instructed his apostles to worship the Father through the re-presentation of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

The Mass re-presents and makes present the perfect sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, which brought glory to the Father and redemption to mankind. For 2,000 years, the church has faithfully followed the command of the Lord to "do this in remembrance of me." Christ teaches us and demonstrates the pattern of perfect worship.

This week concludes our background material on the Mass. Next week, we will begin to look at this pattern of worship that God established for us to follow.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Catholics can receive special indulgences during eucharistic year

Cardinal outlines requirements for indulgences

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — During the Year of the Eucharist, which runs through October, Catholics can receive special indulgences for eucharistic adoration and prayer before the Eucharist.

Pope John Paul authorized the indulgences in order to encourage in the faithful "a deeper knowledge of and a more intense love" for the Eucharist, said U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

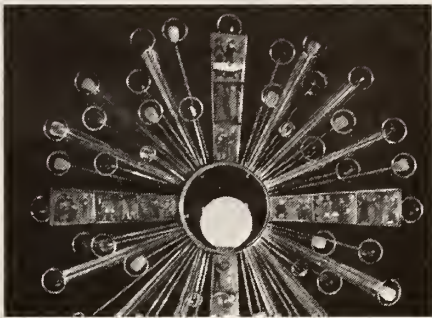
The Vatican published the cardinal's statement announcing the indulgences and outlining the requirements for receiving them Jan. 14.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed.

Cardinal Stafford said the special eucharistic year indulgences include the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences: that within a reasonably short period of time, the person goes to confession, receives the Eucharist and prays for the intentions of the pope, all in a spirit of total detachment from the attraction of sin.

Special plenary indulgences, he said, would be given to those who fulfill the normal requirements in conjunction with participating "with attention and piety in a sacred function or a pious exercise carried out in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, either solemnly exposed or preserved in the tabernacle."

In addition, he said, those who recite the vespers and compline prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours in a church or chapel where the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle will receive a plenary indulgence.



CNS PHOTO FROM CROSIERS

A consecrated host is pictured inside a monstrance, used for exposition, Benediction and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Cardinal Stafford said that Catholics who because of illness or other serious reason cannot visit a church or chapel could still earn the indulgence if they make the visit "with the desire of their hearts, in a spirit of faith in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the sacrament of the altar."

Those who cannot go to church, he said, should recite the Lord's Prayer, the creed and a short prayer about the gift of the Eucharist.

The cardinal said Catholics who are physically unable to do even that could receive the indulgence by offering their illness and difficulties up to the Lord and uniting their prayers with the prayer of someone fulfilling the requirements.

Cardinal Stafford asked priests around the world to explain indulgences and the conditions for receiving them to their faithful and to be generous in making themselves available to hear confessions so that Catholics could fulfill all of the requirements for them.

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2005 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
DIOCESAN MINISTRIES

Special Ministries	\$213,321
Office of Justice and Peace	\$169,186
Refugee Resettlement Program	\$40,290
Catholic Social Service Administration	\$208,776

REGIONAL SERVICES

Western Regional Office — Asheville	\$199,550
Charlotte Regional Office	\$295,792
Piedmont Triad Office — Winston-Salem	\$276,716

HOUSING MINISTRY \$110,427

MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

African American	\$23,735
Hispanic Ministry	\$506,746
Hmong Ministry	\$42,427

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Campus Ministry	\$396,042
Catholic Schools Administration	\$180,119
Education Office	\$30,861
Evangelization & Ministry Formation	\$79,260
Faith Formation	\$364,473
Media Resources	\$93,023
Young Adult Ministry	\$49,747
Youth Ministry	\$145,739

VOCATIONS

Permanent Diaconate	\$121,323
Seminarian Education	\$251,804

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES \$150,643

TOTAL \$3,950,000

DSA SUPPORTED AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRIES

DIOCESAN MINISTRIES	704-370-3228
DISASTER RELIEF	704-370-3225
ELDER MINISTRIES	704-370-3220
FAMILY LIFE	704-370-3250
MARRIAGE PREPARATION	704-370-3228
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	704-370-3230
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT	704-370-3277
RESPECT LIFE	704-370-3229

OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE	704-370-3225
PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING	704-370-3225
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	828-835-3535

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES/WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE	828-255-0146
HISPANIC SOCIAL SERVICES — ADOPTION — COUNSELING — FOSTER CARE — PREGNANCY SUPPORT	

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES/CHARLOTTE REGIONAL OFFICE	704-370-3232
ADOPTION — COUNSELING — FOSTER CARE — PREGNANCY SUPPORT — PROGRAMA ESPERANZA	

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES/PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGIONAL OFFICE	336-727-0705
CASA GUADALUPE — ADOPTION — COUNSELING — FOSTER CARE — PREGNANCY SUPPORT	

HISPANIC CENTER — HIGH POINT	336-884-5858
GREENSBORO SATELLITE OFFICE	336-274-5577

HOUSING MINISTRY	704-370-3250
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PRISON MINISTRY	704-370-3344
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MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

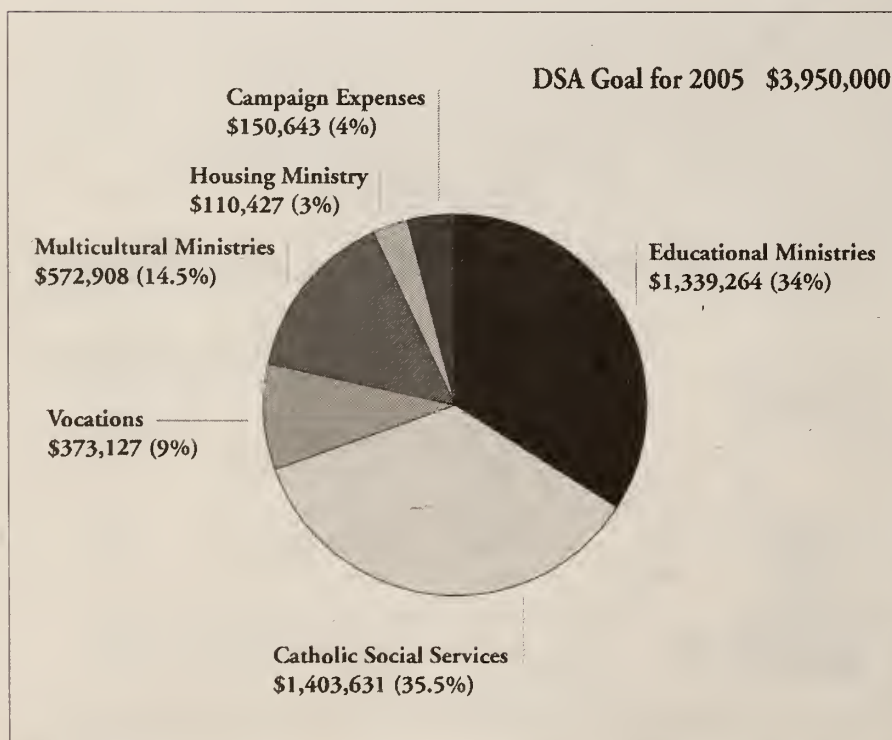
AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY	704-370-3399
HISPANIC MINISTRY	704-335-1281
HONG AND LAHU MINISTRY	704-327-2341

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

VICAR FOR EDUCATION	704-370-3210
CAMPUS MINISTRY	704-370-3212
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION	704-370-3270
EVANGELIZATION	704-370-3274
FAITH FORMATION	704-370-3246
LAY MINISTRY TRAINING	704-370-3274
MEDIA RESOURCES	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3246
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY	704-370-3212
YOUTH MINISTRY	704-370-3211

VOCATIONS

PERMANENT DIACONATE	704-370-3344
SEMINARIAN EDUCATION	704-370-3353



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Parish goals for DSA

PARISH//MISSION	CITY	GOAL
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church	Albemarle	\$20,621
Holy Redeemer Church	Andrews	\$4,751
St. Barnabas Church	Arden	\$65,720
St. Joseph Church	Asheboro	\$30,527
Basilica of St. Lawrence	Asheville	\$47,834
St. Eugene Church	Asheville	\$82,399
St. Joan of Arc Church	Asheville	\$22,990
Queen of the Apostles Church	Belmont	\$41,354
Our Lady of the Americas Church	Biscoe	\$10,840
St. Elizabeth Church	Boone	\$40,679
Divine Redeemer Church	Boonville	\$7,433
Sacred Heart Church	Brevard	\$45,134
St. Joseph Church	Bryson City	\$4,977
Sacred Heart Mission	Burnsville	\$5,525
Immaculate Conception Mission	Canton	\$4,193
Our Lady of Consolation Church	Charlotte	\$42,186
Our Lady of the Assumption Church	Charlotte	\$36,683
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Charlotte	\$31,723
St. Ann Church	Charlotte	\$59,005
St. Gabriel Church	Charlotte	\$256,057
St. John Korean Church	Charlotte	\$17,517
St. John Neumann Church	Charlotte	\$84,737
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church	Charlotte	\$16,388
St. Matthew Church	Charlotte	\$369,727
St. Patrick Cathedral	Charlotte	\$81,281
St. Peter Church	Charlotte	\$73,495
St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Charlotte	\$104,488
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Charlotte	\$113,310
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission	Cherokee	\$2,843
Holy Family Church	Clemmons	\$89,453
St. James Church	Concord	\$58,575
Holy Spirit Mission	Denver	\$22,558
St. Joseph of the Hills Church	Eden	\$9,368
St. Stephen Mission	Elkin	\$6,313
Immaculate Conception Church	Forest City	\$23,284
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Franklin	\$23,999
St. Michael Church	Gastonia	\$63,788
Our Lady of Grace Church	Greensboro	\$110,154
St. Benedict Church	Greensboro	\$23,202
St. Mary Church	Greensboro	\$28,433
St. Paul the Apostle Church	Greensboro	\$143,534
St. Pius X Church	Greensboro	\$96,952
St. James Church	Hamlet	\$12,386
Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission	Hayesville	\$16,705
Immaculate Conception Church	Hendersonville	\$101,797
St. Aloysius Church	Hickory	\$91,578
Our Lady of the Mountains Mission	Highlands	\$19,265
Christ the King Church	High Point	\$16,643
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	High Point	\$103,573
St. Mark Church	Huntersville	\$139,389
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Jefferson	\$9,697
St. Joseph Mission	Kannapolis	\$17,748
Holy Cross Church	Kernersville	\$55,611
Good Shepherd Mission	King	\$11,384
Christ the King Church	Kings Mountain	\$6,068
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Lenoir	\$20,943
Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Lexington	\$13,877
St. Dorothy Church	Lincolnton	\$16,560
St. Bernadette Mission	Linville	\$15,640
St. Margaret Church	Maggie Valley	\$16,937
Our Lady of the Angels Mission	Marion	\$6,426
St. Andrew the Apostle Church	Mars Hill	\$7,285
St. Luke Church	Mint Hill	\$63,116
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Mocksville	\$13,220
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Monroe	\$29,673
St. Therese Church	Mooresville	\$105,998
St. Charles Borromeo Church	Morganton	\$34,484
Holy Angels Church	Mount Airy	\$14,219
St. William Church	Murphy	\$17,953
St. Joseph Church	Newton	\$19,254
St. John Baptist de La Salle Church	North Wilkesboro	\$12,872
Holy Infant Church	Reidsville	\$16,119
Prince of Peace Mission	Robbinsville	\$2,471
Sacred Heart Church	Salisbury	\$66,809
St. Jude Mission	Sapphire Valley	\$17,409
St. Mary Church	Shelby	\$28,218
St. Frances of Rome Church	Sparta	\$6,055
St. Helen Mission	Spencer Mountain	\$4,173
St. Lucien Church	Spruce Pine	\$7,103
St. Philip the Apostle Church	Statesville	\$39,120
St. Margaret Mary Church	Swannanoa	\$20,687
St. Mary Church	Sylva	\$15,516
Holy Trinity Church	Taylorsville	\$8,172
Our Lady of the Highways Church	Thomasville	\$12,863
St. John the Baptist Church	Tryon	\$32,121
Sacred Heart Mission	Wadesboro	\$2,438
St. John Church	Waynesville	\$17,695
Our Lady of Fatima Church	Winston-Salem	\$17,543
Our Lady of Mercy Church	Winston-Salem	\$58,189
St. Benedict the Moor Church	Winston-Salem	\$10,415
St. Leo the Great Church	Winston-Salem	\$132,549
TOTAL		\$3,950,00

DSA helps many

DSA, from page 1

and ministries," he said.

This year, contributions to the DSA will help serve as "the hands of Christ" to those in need by providing funds for Catholic Social Services; educational, housing and multicultural ministries and the vocations program.

"Being the hands of Christ, we are called to action," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of the diocesan development office. "The DSA is a concrete way to help build God's kingdom here in the diocese. It also is a means of sharing what you have with others."

The goal of this year's DSA is \$3,950,000, and it can only be achieved with support from Catholics across the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Contributing to the DSA gives the Catholics of western North Carolina an opportunity to be a part of something bigger, and to help the church in its ministry throughout the western half of the state," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We are very conscious of the sacrifices people make; we have a strong sense of responsibility to use the funds as prudently as possible to achieve the goals of the various ministries and agencies," said Weldon.

People power

The reach of the DSA is far and wide, said Gaddy, including: providing resources and workshops for parish and school catechists; funding seminarian education and diaconate formation; providing funds toward Catholic Social Service's ministries; and allowing Hispanic coordinators throughout the diocese to assist their pastors in serving Spanish-speaking parishioners.

"The DSA funds a large part of Hispanic Ministry at the diocesan level," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry, "so it makes it possible to have a full-time resource person in almost every vicariate."

"These coordinators are very dedicated, they have experience and travel many miles each month to be of help in the parishes so the Hispanic community can feel welcome and a part of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Sister Inkrott. "If it wasn't for the DSA, we wouldn't be able to do this."

"The program directors work very hard to stretch every dollar in funding so as to maximize the services rendered," said Weldon. "They also work very hard to generate additional funding for their programs and ministries."

Dissecting the DSA

"Although there is outside funding for almost all ministries, the DSA is the primary funding source for them, with the exception of Catholic Social Services, which generates approximately three-fourths of its total funding from sources other than the DSA," said Weldon.

Each of the parishes and missions within the Diocese of Charlotte is assigned a target — "their share of the overall goal of \$3,950,000," said Weldon. "This is accomplished by using a formula established by

a task force of lay people, pastors and finance council representatives."

Parish offertory from the last fiscal year is the starting point, said Weldon. Then, 25 percent of parish subsidy to Catholic schools is subtracted from the parish offertory. The resulting number is the basis for a mathematical computation that determines each parish's pro-rata share of the DSA goal.

"If, through parishioner contributions, a particular parish goes over its target, the excess is rebated to the parish," said Weldon. "If a parish falls short of its target, the parish is expected to make up the difference from its own budget."

"Most of the programs and services offered by the DSA-funded ministries are provided by staff of the diocese," said Weldon. "Consequently, the largest category of these expenses is personnel-related. The DSA only provides funding for direct program costs. There is no allocation of administrative costs."

"As an example, accounting and finance costs are administrative expenses, not direct program costs," he said. "Therefore, none of the funds collected through the DSA are used to pay for accounting costs."

Planning for this year's DSA began last fall as budgeting for the 2005-2006 fiscal year began. The goal represents an increase of 4.64 percent over last year's goal, said Weldon.

"We have tried very hard to limit cost increases while expanding program services," he said.

Establishing the current goal of \$3,950,000 involved account-by-account budgets for each program and ministry that receives DSA funding, said Weldon. "Two components — program changes and cost increases — are examined when establishing the DSA budget. The amount budgeted for each ministry is published in this issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* (on pages 8-9)."

"As the people of the diocese entrust us with their gifts, we are then accountable to them for the use of these resources," said Weldon.

"We are committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability," he said. "Every fall, we present a financial report in *The Catholic News & Herald* that presents the previous year's actual DSA funding by ministry."

Making the pledge

In the coming week, registered parishioners will receive pledge cards and letters at their homes from Bishop Peter J. Jugis, asking for their support of the DSA. Parishioners may send in a donation with those cards for all or part of their pledges. Reminder cards will be sent out in May for the amount not yet paid, and that amount may be paid over a period of six months.

"I am grateful for your support of the Church through your own gifts of time, talent and treasure," wrote Bishop Jugis.

"When we give to the DSA, we are participating in the educational, vocational, multicultural, housing and Catholic Social Services ministries that serve as the hands of Christ here in the diocese," he said.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'Angels and Demons' tour: a novel approach to Rome

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The day is fast approaching when tourists circling Rome might be seen with their noses stuck between the pages of a Dan Brown novel rather than a map or guide.

It has already happened in Paris. Staff at the Louvre and the Church of St. Sulpice said they are approached daily by Holy Grail seekers clutching worn copies of Brown's novel, "The Da Vinci Code."

The demand for details about the artwork and architecture featured in Brown's best-selling novel caught most Parisian curators by surprise, so earlier this year some enterprising organizations started to offer "The Da Vinci Code" tours.

The tours seek to retrace the steps of Brown's fictional hero, Harvard professor of religious symbology Robert Langdon, and to juxtapose reality against the myths or factual errors in Brown's murder mysteries.

Now the same idea has come to Rome. As of Dec. 28, a guided tour based on Brown's other best-selling conspiracy novel, "Angels and Demons," was offered.

"American tourists asked us about 'Angels and Demons'" and where the different churches in the novel were, so "we started a tour," said Simone Gozzi, president of the cultural association Dark Rome, which organizes the tour.

While fictional, code-cracking Langdon whipped around Rome in unmarked Vatican sedans, Gozzi

guides his armchair sleuths around the city in a chauffeured minivan.

In the novel, Langdon races to prevent the murders of four eminent cardinals on the night of a conclave and to avert the legendary Illuminati sect's threat of destroying the Vatican.

Gozzi's tour concentrates on visiting just the Illuminati's alleged four altars of science by following the fictional Path of Illumination.

"We didn't want to add anything else" like a visit to the Vatican, because "I don't think the Vatican is a big fan of Dan Brown," Gozzi told Catholic News Service.

The head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, told CNS that Brown's books combine "interests in the religious, the mysterious and the conspiratorial."

Archbishop Foley said he's not surprised the novels harbor some factual errors because the books are "supposed to be fiction." The real problem hinges on whether people with "a superficial religious formation may take the book as Gospel and be deceived," said the archbishop.

However, Gozzi said he "didn't get the idea the people on the tour wanted the book to be true."

He said even though people came to Italy just to do the tour, their aim seemed to be to satisfy a curiosity that was sparked by the story and "to see what the sites they read about really look like."

The clues readers needed to unravel the novel's mystery essentially were hidden in some of Rome's statues and architectural designs by 17th-century baroque artist Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini.

The "Angels and Demons" Rome Tour brings visitors to those masterpieces, ranging from Bernini's more obscure "Habakkuk and the Angel" in the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo to the Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona.

It's not the first time a book or movie has awakened curiosity in a reader and inspired travel, but the Brown conspiracy novels may be turning popular novels into additional money-making ventures.

The four-hour "Angels and Demons" tour run by Gozzi is priced, for now, between \$61 and \$272, depending on group size.

Though Langdon fans can certainly hunt for the clues and murder scenes on their own, Gozzi said a guided tour sets the historical record straight, in this case concerning the Illuminati, the Inquisition, and the church's trial of 17th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei.



CNS FILE PHOTO BY TOM LORSUNG

Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome is one stop on a new guided tour based on Dan Brown's best-selling conspiracy novel, "Angels and Demons."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 30, 2005

Jan. 30, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
Psalm: 146:6-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Eternal happiness is worth focusing on

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

This year's batch of family newsletters enclosed in Christmas cards was a typical collection: a lot of achievement by our friends' children, a little achievement by our friends themselves, much care of our friends' parents, many exotic travels and a surprisingly large number of our friends' pets' signatures.

But one letter stood out, I realized, as my daughter and I talked, misty-eyed and fondly, about the family who wrote it. No, nobody died in their family. They had had some serious difficulties and also some great joys in the last year. But they never tell about any achievements in their letters.

In fact, when we lived in the same neighborhood (so we didn't get letters), we never heard them even talk about family members' achievements, although we'd witnessed plenty.

This has to be one of the highest

achieving families I've ever known. But what do they talk — and write — about themselves?

They write about family occasions to get together; about love lost and love found; about the joy in their relationship with each other and with friends; about how God has blessed them with strength and endurance in trying times and illness; about their delight in God's grace; about their trust in God's unfailing care.

I read today's Gospel and thought of this family when I read the Beatitude, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." This family never seemed to hunger for success, but only to live well, caring for each other and especially for their community.

No wonder they always are filled with joy, since they hunger for something that promises to satisfy. Worldly success seems to be something that happened to them along the way, but they didn't hunger for it.

The Beatitudes aren't telling us about a group of people — the poor in spirit, the meek, the peacemakers — who get to heaven, inherit the land and are the children of God. The Beatitudes offer us a countercultural focus for our own lives: lifestyles that promise satisfaction and happiness.

The final Beatitude suggests a caveat: Counterculturalism brings persecution. Yes, and it makes a great Christmas letter. God is among us.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23-29

Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 8:23-9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; Monday (St. Francis de Sales), Hebrews 9:15, 24-28, Mark 3:22-30; Tuesday (The conversion of Paul), Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; Wednesday (Sts. Timothy and Titus), Titus 1:1-5, Mark 4:1-20; Thursday (St. Angela Merici), Hebrews 10:19-25, Mark 4:21-25; Friday (St. Thomas Aquinas), Hebrews 10:32-39, Mark 4:26-34; Saturday, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 1:69-75, Mark 4:35-41.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; Monday (St. John Bosco), Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; Tuesday, Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; Wednesday (Presentation of the Lord), Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; Thursday (St. Blasé, St. Ansgar), Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; Friday, Hebrews 13:1-8, Mark 6:14-29; Saturday, Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34.



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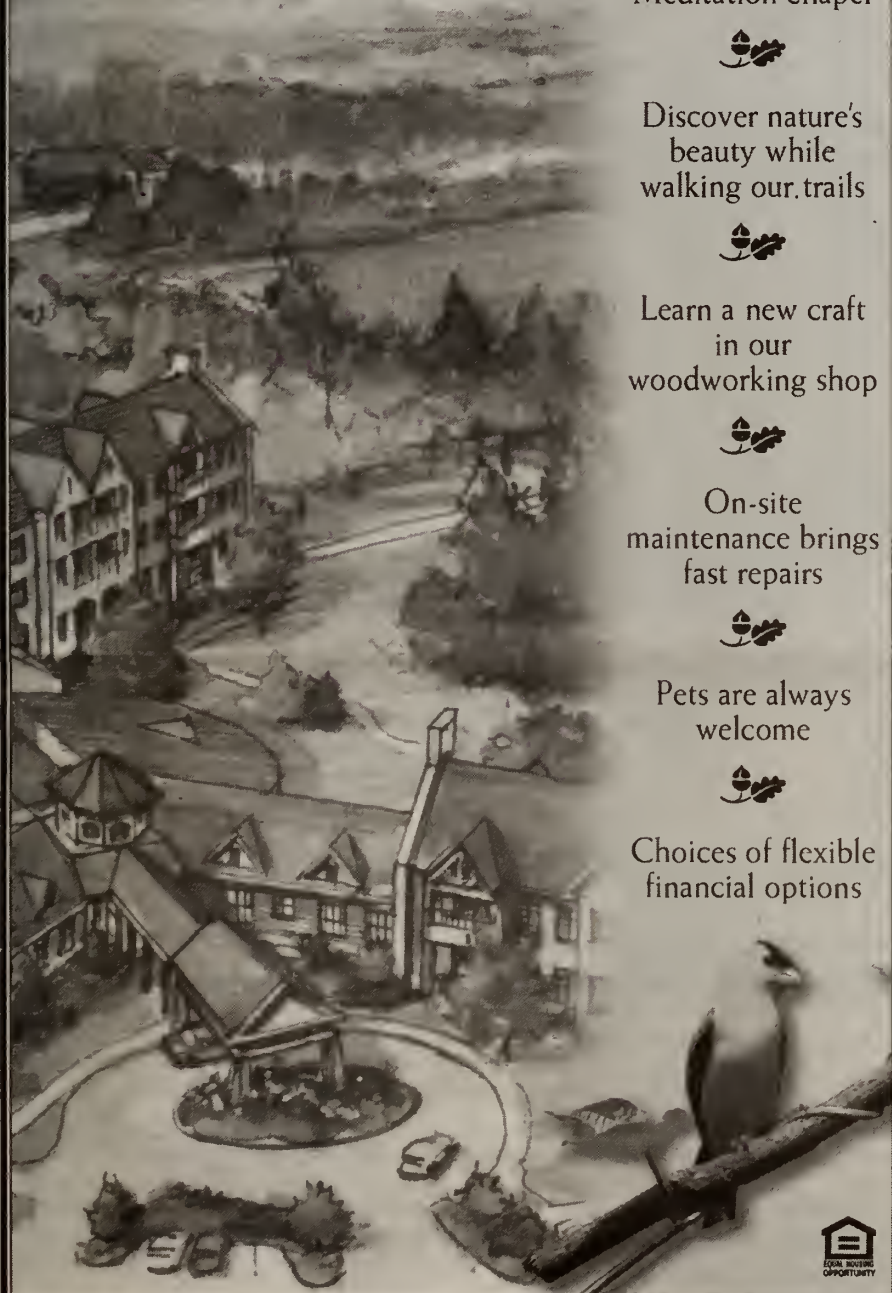
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'Chorus' worth singing about



CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX

Gerard Jugnot stars in "The Chorus," a sentimental French film about a failed musician who takes a teaching job at a boarding school for troubled boys in the late 1940s, and helps them overcome their delinquent ways by forming a choir. The film features first-rate performances and heavenly singing, making this a surefire pleaser even as the setup is transparently manipulative. Some crude language, a brief verbal suggestion of sexual impropriety and a few violent episodes. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

18th annual video contest for college students

NEW YORK (CNS) — Student filmmakers will compete for \$6,500 in prizes in the 18th annual video contest sponsored by The Christophers for college students.

Entries, due by June 10, must interpret the theme "One Person Can Make a Difference" in a short film that runs five minutes or less.

The work of the top winners will be featured on more than 100 television outlets through a special edition of the

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Past winners have used a variety of styles and genres, including drama, comedy, documentary, news format, music video and animation. Entries have come from a diverse field of studies.

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- Sat. Feb. 19th at 10 AM

- Tues. Feb. 22nd at 7 PM

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Many rally for life in Raleigh

RALLY, from page 1

"The right to gather publicly, and witness to the sanctity of life, is a privilege we in the United States, enjoy," said Maggi Nadol, director of the Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Charlotte. "However, the sad reality is, our most vulner-



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis speaks about pro-life issues during the Rally for Life in Raleigh Jan. 15.

able, the unborn, are not being allowed to have their voices heard, because their voices are silenced by abortion."

Bishop Jugis began with brief comments on the incomparable worth of the human person created in the image of God.

"A new life that is conceived is a separate person from either parent and has an inalienable right to life," he said.

During the invocation, Bishop Jugis asked for blessing upon the pro-life movement and all those gathered in commemoration of the 32nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

The crowd then heard remarks by Congressman Walter Jones Jr. of North Carolina and Lynda Bell, a past president of Florida Right to Life.

Before the rally, Bishop Jugis mingled with the crowd, shaking hands and thanking people for their participation. Many of the young people were thrilled with the bishop's personal attention and commented on the bishop's approachability.

The rally and march followed the sixth annual Prayer Breakfast, at which about 200 people heard testimonies on the power of prayer in everyday life, especially in the pro-life movement. They were also honored to hear Al Barbarino, a lay apostolate Franciscan with the Padre Pio Shelter in New York, who performs concerts for charity throughout the United States and overseas.

While this was the largest rally and march to date, the events in Raleigh

were only the kickoff of local pro-life observances throughout the state. Many people across the nation, as well as a large group from the Diocese of Charlotte, will gather for the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 24.

Flora Smith is a member of the board of director for North Carolina Right to Life.



The diocesan Respect Life Office is one of 36 ministries funded in part through the Diocesan Support Appeal that helps serve as the "hands of Christ."

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TSUNAMI RELIEF

Catholic students raise funds for tsunami victims

TSUNAMI, from page 1

orphaned and a million people homeless. As the nations affected by the tsunami continue to recover from the disaster, students throughout western North Carolina have joined people around the world in relief efforts.

Students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem have raised \$3,000.

"Our outreach coordinator, Maureen Patti, and the student council encouraged giving through flyers, announcements, a bake sale and the Thursday Newsletter," said Georgette Schraeder, principal. "The students and teachers have also written letters and prayers for the people who suffered so much loss."

The student body of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro has a special connection to the Diocese of Port Blair, India. Bishop Alex Dias visited Winston-Salem in August 2004 as part

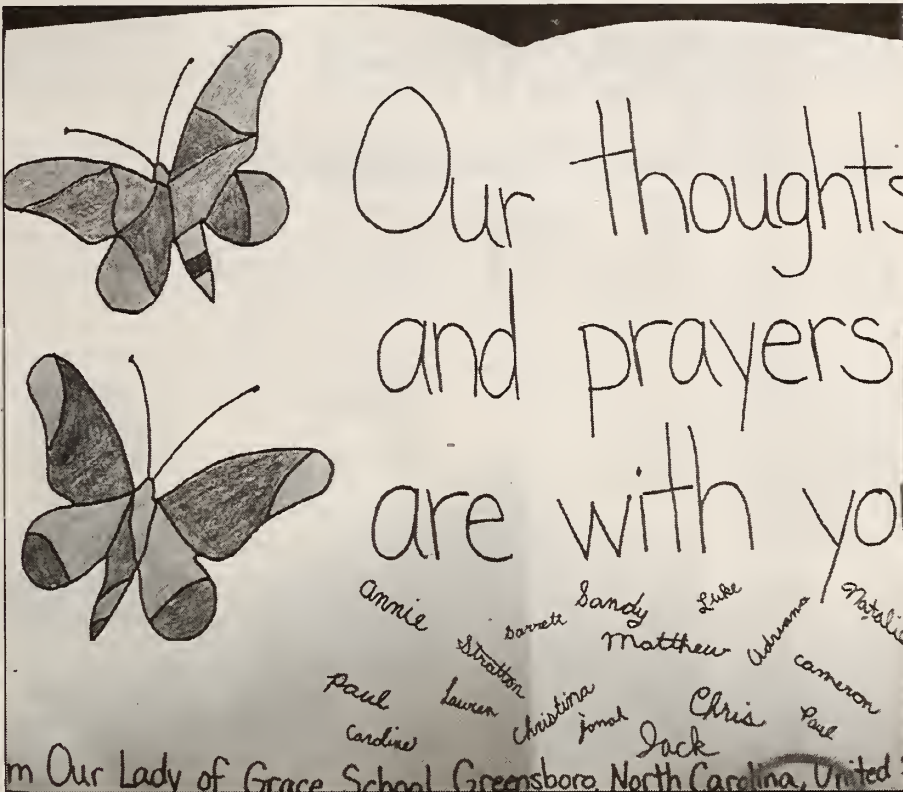
of a missionary trip. Bishop Dias' diocese includes the areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where more than 7,500 people are believed to have died.

"When Father Frank O'Rourke, our pastor, realized that (Bishop Dias') diocese was right in the midst of the tsunami and earthquake zone, (Father O'Rourke) called him on the phone and got an answer," said Shirley Kinlaw, interim principal.

"It was then that Father Frank indicated to him that our parish would be taking a second collection on Jan. 9, to aid his cause in particular," said Kinlaw. "From that offer sprang the idea to have the schoolchildren make cards to accompany the financial gift of the parish."


Our Lady of Grace Church and School have collected more than \$30,000 for the Diocese of Port Blair. Each homeroom is preparing a card with a note indicating that their prayers are being offered for the intentions of the members of Bishop Dias' diocese.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools



COURTESY PHOTO

Each homeroom class at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro made a greeting card with a note indicating their prayers for the members of the Diocese of Port Blair, India. Students and parishioners at Our Lady of Grace Church and School have collected more than \$30,000 for the diocese, where more than 7,500 people are thought to have been killed by the Dec. 26 tsunami.



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will hold their second annual shoe collection for the Samaritan's Feet project in February. All of the shoes collected will be donated to tsunami victims.

"The children in Sri Lanka and across that region of Asia have experienced so much tragedy and loss. We hope that by bringing comfort to their soles, we can touch their hearts with a message of God's love," said Emmanuel Ohonme, president and founder of


Samaritan's Feet.

Students at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School collected more than \$3,200 through a "dress-down day" Jan. 7. For a \$1 donation, students were allowed to wear jeans with their school or team uniform shirt. Many parents also donated money, and many students gave \$5 or \$10. The funds will be donated to Catholic Relief Services through Catholic Social Services.

At Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte, students will collect money during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31-Feb. 4. All donations will then be given to Catholic Relief Services through Catholic Social Services.

When Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme attended a pep rally at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, he gave the school a life-size cardboard cutout of himself. The student council decided to raffle off the cutout, and more than \$800 was raised for the United Nations World Food Program.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



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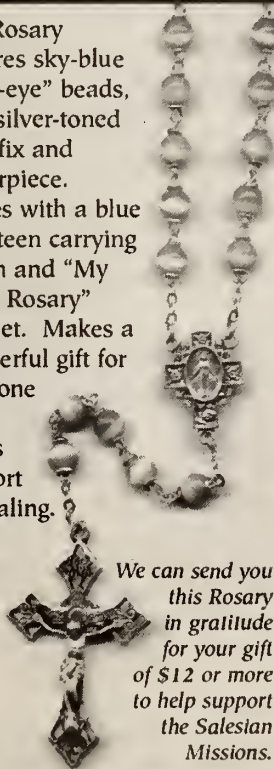
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Perspectives

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Being the 'Hands of Christ'

DSA helps us spread Christ's love to others

Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY
GUEST COLUMNIST



"How are you the hands of Christ?"

That is what I asked about a dozen people in my own parish last weekend. Since the theme of this year's Diocesan Support Appeal is "We are the Hands of Christ," I decided to find out how the people in the pew related to the theme.

On my way out of the church, I stopped Juvarez, a parish teen-ager who is an altar server. He didn't waste a minute thinking about the question. "It means helping others like Jesus (did)," he said. "We give to charities and we go there and help to serve others in need."

A bright young man, I thought. I wonder what some of the other teen-agers think. In the vestibule I ran into Andrew. He immediately said, "I am the hands of Christ when I share my faith with others." Wow, another smart teen with a good answer!

As I was looking for another unsuspecting target, David, a talented catechist with a powerful singing voice and a kind heart, approached me about "Keith," a child whose parents dropped him off for a class that was not meeting. As David searched around the church for Keith's teacher, I thought of the many ways he was serving as the hands of Christ — teaching, singing and caring for displaced children, to name a few.

While I waited with Keith, I decided to seize the moment and ask this young second-grader how he was the hands of Jesus. He took a moment to think about it and, with a little prompting, said that he "cleans his room for his mom when it is messy — and it sure is messy a lot!" Reluctantly, he mentioned sharing with his brothers and sisters.

We weren't able to reach Keith's parents, but Angela, another catechist who was leading the children's Liturgy of the Word at the next Mass said she would stay with Keith. Out came the crayons and worksheets, and Keith was attending his very own class.

I thought of the countless ways Angela serves as the hands of Christ — the number of children whose lives she touches in faith formation, the parishioners whose Sunday Mass experience is enriched by her beautiful voice as a cantor.

Then along came Deacon Peter. I thought to myself, how many ways does a deacon serve as the hands of Christ? Deacon Peter teaches RCIA and sacramental preparation; he preaches at Mass, baptizes, officiates at weddings and funerals; he visits the sick. On top of that, he entertains countless people with

his musical talent.

Martha, a lay ministry graduate, came over after working at the "Roses for Life" table in the vestibule. She is serving as the hands of Christ by helping to promote respect for life. Then I thought of the many other things she did such as teaching children and adults, visiting the sick, serving as a eucharistic minister and decorating the church for special liturgies.

Marianne, a young certified nursing assistant who works with the elderly at a local nursing home, joined us, so I took the opportunity to ask how she was the hands of Christ. I really wasn't prepared for her incredible answer.

She responded, "Every day I help 50 people live another day. I am a friend to people who feel they have no purpose in life, and I help them find a reason to live. We laugh and cry together. We celebrate milestones and accomplishments together. We share stories ... and I love my job."

I had barely regained my composure when I saw more "hands of Christ." Grace and Roy do everything from training liturgical ministers to repairing broken toilets. Bernie uses his hands to conduct the choir as well as fix the paper towel dispenser.

As I sat down to write this column, I thought about all those "hands of Christ" from the pastor to the maintenance worker, from the elderly to the children, working together in the parish. It takes the combined work of many hands to bring the message of the Gospel to others. I am sure this is true in every parish throughout the diocese.

It is also true at the diocesan level. The DSA gives each of us the opportunity to serve others in catechetical ministry like David, Angela and Martha. Along with Martha, we are part of the respect life ministry when we give to the DSA. Everyone can't work with the elderly like Marianne, but a gift to the DSA is a way of supporting our Catholic Social Services' diocesan elder ministry. In fact, my short tenure as a "roving reporter" uncovered seven DSA-funded ministries — faith formation, youth ministry, RCIA, Elder Ministry, Permanent Diaconate, Respect Life and Lay Ministry Training — all serving as the Hands of Christ.

How do your hands serve him?

Barbara Gaddy is associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

What does 'laicization' mean?

Q. When a priest is defrocked or laicized because of grievous offenses against Catholic laws, what does that mean? May he still say Mass and give the sacraments? If he can, may it be in his house or in a church? I thought a priest is a priest forever. (New York)

A. It is true that through ordination a priest definitively becomes part of the clerical order in the church. The "indelible character" of holy orders never ceases, but the legal status of the priest as part of the clergy may be lost, either through death or by lawful dismissal from the clerical state.

The penalty of dismissal from the clerical state, often called "laicization," is the only one remaining of several penalties against members of the clergy that were formerly in Catholic Church law.

The process for dismissal of a priest is usually lengthy and extremely complex, deliberately designed to protect the rights of everyone — any victims, the offenders and other Catholics or members of civil society who may be affected by the offenses themselves or by a decision of laicization.

Obviously, this drastic punishment is used only in the most serious or scandalous circumstances. It may be applied in only seven specific instances, which are listed in the section on crimes and penalties in the Code of Canon Law. Among others, these instances include violation of the eucharistic species, commission of sexual offenses through force or threat or publicly, and physical attack on the pope.

When a priest is properly dismissed from the clerical state, he is no longer bound by any obligations of that state,

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



including the obligation of celibacy, which is normally dispensed from in the documents establishing laicization.

A priest who is dismissed also loses all rights proper to the priesthood. He is prohibited from exercising any function connected to the priesthood and holy orders.

The single exception is that he may hear confessions of people in danger of death and absolve them from sins or other spiritual censures that may burden them. Interestingly, not only is a dismissed priest permitted to do this, he is obliged to do so by church law if any member of the "Christian faithful" is in a situation of such urgent necessity (Canons 976 and 986).

Some penalties are imposed on certain priests today, generally in connection with the sexual abuse scandal, with effects similar to laicization but which are not formally and canonically loss of the clerical state. In addition to other penalties, the priest may not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly, but may, as you note, do so privately, for example in his own home. Conditions in these instances vary widely.

The basic legislation concerning dismissal from the clerical state is in the Code of Canon Law 290-293.

Letters to the Editor

Social Security's future shouldn't depend on government

Glenmary Father John Rausch's syndicated column on Jan. 14 ("If it's not broken, don't fix it") was disheartening, at best. His mistrust of "privatization" seems greatly unfounded. It is known that Social Security will begin to take in less "receipts" than "payouts" in the year 2018. By 2030, the system will have twice as many payouts to the elderly, as income from younger contributors.

It is also known that the plan only will derive 4 percent of the Social Security income to invest in the market that has averaged a return of 10 percent (including all risk) over its history, while Social Security has managed only 1 percent, at best. The endpoint of Social Security as we know it is approaching. What do we risk when that happens?

Father Rausch's last question, "... a community of care encouraged by the Gospel," is a good one. Worded better it should ask, "Do we do what the government tells us, or do we do what we consider better for the oppressed?"

I don't believe Jesus ever said that the government would be our savior. He knew we had to depend on each other. Government programs in the past have hurt as many as they have helped.

It seems much more passionate to allow seniors a greater return on their investments by putting more people to work and investing more in America. The system's broken, but do we have the courage to change it now, rather than experience expenses later?

— Kevin Roeten, Asheville

Slavery column enlightening

It was pleasing to read such a true story by Carole Norris Greene ("Tsunami by another name," Jan. 14). Her column was enlightening and should be shared amongst students from middle school and up. I look forward to more columns from her.

— Marie Isley, Greensboro

Caution: dangerous e-mails ahead

I admit it — I love e-mail. I couldn't do my job with out it. I use it to communicate, both professionally and personally. I use it to avoid talking to certain people on the phone.

Frankly, it saves me a lot of time. It also wastes a lot of my time. But I wouldn't give it up for all the money in the world.

We have to be careful with this tool, because it can be used for the most destructive, violent of means — spreading untruths, hate, information that allows terrorists to make bombs and young girls to become anorexic or bulimic. So we have to be careful.

Whenever I hear someone say, "I read this or that on an e-mail," I usually assume that it's just not true. We've all heard the stories — the young girl kidnapped outside a Wal-Mart in South Carolina, Bill Gates will send you \$100 to help him test Microsoft's new e-mail tracking system. Maybe at some point these stories were true, but the more the stories circulate through e-mail, the less likely they are to be true — like a giant game of "telephone."

Last summer, I got an e-mail from a co-worker stating that verse 9:11 of the Koran says "For it is written that a son of Arabia would awaken a fear-

As I Was Saying

KAREN EVANS
STAFF WRITER



some Eagle. The wrath of the Eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah ... the wrath of the Eagle cleansed the lands of Allah; and there was peace."

This was an obvious allusion to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and the United States' invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

I was skeptical that something this clearly prophetic would be true. So I looked up verse 9:11 in the Koran on the Internet. I found that, not only does verse 9:11 mention nothing about an eagle liberating Arab nations, there is no mention of an eagle anywhere in the Koran.

E-mail can be a wonderful tool for sharing Christ's Gospel, too. I treasure the prayers, encouragement and jokes

I receive from my friends. But whenever I reach the bottom of the message, and I am instructed to forward the e-mail to five friends and I will be granted a wish in five days, or forward the message if I love Christ, a shiver of revulsion goes through me.

Who is this wish-grantor monitoring my e-mail? When I make a wish on a falling star, I don't really think there's some entity listening to my thoughts and granting my wishes. If that were true, I would be married with a brood of children by now.

Is Christ sitting on his throne in heaven with a laptop, hacking into my Yahoo! account to see if I forwarded my latest e-mail to the required number of friends? Christ knows I love him. I don't need to pass a guilt trip along to my friends to prove it.

Why do we blindly accept these declarations? The only way to make our wishes come true or to prove our love to Christ is through prayer, and prayer in action. I can personally testify to the fact that God does answer prayers — in his way, in his time.

So the next time you're online, read all your e-mails with a healthy dose of skepticism and common sense. God is watching.

Christians must pray for unity, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Prayer, dialogue and cooperation to restore Christian unity are obligations for all Christians, Pope John Paul II said.

Marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at his Jan. 19 general audience, the pope led an estimated 7,000 people in praying for Christian unity.

Before embracing the cross and going to his death, Christ prayed that all his disciples would be one, Pope John Paul said, introducing the prayers for the churches of the East and West, for all those baptized in Christ and for all those who give witness to the Gospel in the world.

In his audience talk, the pope said the Jan. 18-25 week of prayer is an important occasion "for reminding Christians that the re-establishment of full unity among them, according to the will of Jesus, involves every baptized person, pastors and faithful alike."

The Catholic Church, he said, has just celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, "a key text which placed the Catholic Church firmly and irrevocably in the heart of the ecumenical movement."

The reconciliation of the world's Christians, he said, requires more than human efforts and talents, which is why prayer for unity is so important.

"But prayer must be accompanied by the purification of minds, feelings and memories," leaving behind bitterness over past events, he said. "In that way, it becomes an expression of that 'interior conversion' without which there is no true ecumenism."

Pope John Paul praised those engaged in ecumenical dialogue, both on a theological level and in the field of cooperation in concrete projects to help others.

"The pain of separation is felt with increasing intensity in the face of the challenges of a world that awaits a clear and unanimous Gospel witness from all believers in Christ," he said.

The pope asked those in attendance to join him in praying "that the whole family of believers would reach as soon as possible the full communion willed by Christ."

The pope then greeted clergy and catechists from the Neocatechumenal Way and blessed its founders.

The pope prayed that members of the faith formation program would "deepen, with a docile spirit, communion with the pastors of local churches and with the competent offices of the Holy See. In this way, you can offer an ever more effective contribution to the cause of the Gospel."

He'd Rather not

CBS anchorman and others act without accountability

Dan Rather, the CBS news anchorman, is a tall fellow, well over six feet. He is easy to pick out of a crowd. But he was hard to find on the day last week when CBS News owned up to a huge mistake.

Rather was exercising a prerogative that news people in general, and television news anchors in particular, enjoy. He wasn't being held accountable for what he did. To understand the news media in this country, you first must appreciate the fact that accountability is at the bottom of the media's list of priorities.

A story that came to be known as "memogate" engulfed CBS News in September when the network aired a story, hosted by Rather, about a memo critical of President Bush when the president was in the Texas National Guard during the Vietnam war.

The memo may have been a fake, but even if it wasn't, an outside investigation showed that CBS violated its own standards in the production of the story. Four people you never heard of lost their jobs over the incident. But Rather, the biggest star on the network, the man whose name is most closely associated with the story, is still on the job.

Why? Because he is not accountable; because as the most important name at CBS, he embodies the CBS brand and no corporation can afford

to destroy its own brand name.

Think of what might have happened if the story were completely true and it turned the electoral tide in favor of John Kerry. The new president may easily have decided to award a Presidential Medal of Freedom to CBS, and who do you think would have accepted the accolades? Not one of the people who was fired; no, the credit would have gone to Rather.

Journalism in America occupies a unique and important niche. The free press guarantee of the First Amendment gives all of us access to a lot of very important information. Freedom, in this case, also means that news organizations have no oversight or control by a government agency. Journalists are not licensed; they have no generally accepted professional standards and there are no ethical or professional boards that people can complain to when they feel they have been wronged by the media.

This is probably the main reason that many people fear the media.

For the most part this system has worked well. The press is robust in presenting viewpoints as varied as Pat Robertson and Dennis Miller, and government knows that it cannot hide the public's business from the watchdog press. In addition, most individual news organizations have

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



ethical rules. But "memogate" shows that some people are above the rules.

Mr. Rather has had a long and very distinguished career as a journalist. He was in Dallas when President Kennedy was assassinated; he stood up for truth when confronted by President Nixon during Watergate. He has been on the scene of countless national stories, calmly presenting facts that very often were not very pretty. But in "memogate," he is the bad guy and he is getting away with something here because he and his profession lack true accountability.

On the night that CBS dutifully reported that the investigation into "memogate" was complete, that four people lost their jobs and that steps were being taken to ensure the credibility of the CBS news product in the future, Mr. Rather was inexplicably off the air. A back-up anchor occupied his customary seat. When asked for his reaction to the whole affair, Mr. Rather, or perhaps it should be Mr. Rather-Not, had no comment.

David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Diverse ecumenical crowd gathers for installation of Archbishop Gregory

Bishop, priests from Diocese of Charlotte attend Mass

BY MARY ANNE CASTRANIO
THE GEORGIA BULLETIN

COLLEGE PARK, Ga. — An ecumenical, diverse crowd gathered at the Georgia International Convention Center Jan. 17 to witness the installation of Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory as the sixth archbishop of Atlanta.

Archbishop Gregory, formerly the bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., recently completed a three-year term as the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The approximately 8,000 people in attendance included dignitaries from around the United States, including five cardinals: Cardinal Francis George of Chicago; Cardinal Edward Egan of New York; Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia; Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore; and Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, D.C.

Fifty-two bishops attended, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte; Deacon Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor; and other priests of the Diocese of Charlotte were present.

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, concelebrated the Mass along with Arch-

bishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue and the cardinals, abbots and priests present.

During the canonical installation, Archbishop Montalvo read the apostolic letter from Pope John Paul II, which stated that Archbishop Gregory had done "outstanding work as bishop and as president of the bishops conference." This letter was the formal acknowledgment of Archbishop Gregory's appointment as archbishop.

Archbishop Montalvo then seated Archbishop Gregory in the cathedra, the bishop's chair, and presented him with the crozier, the symbol of his role as shepherd of the Lord's flock. At that moment, the new archbishop took up his role.

Archbishop Gregory stood as applause swept through the convention center. He appeared deeply moved and accepted a warm embrace from his predecessor, Archbishop Donoghue.

Then more than 200 priests, people from the archdiocesan community, ecumenical and interfaith representatives, and civic officials came up to welcome to the new archbishop.

In his homily, Archbishop Gregory addressed the priests of the archdiocese.

"To the presbyterate of Atlanta, I welcome the opportunity to serve with you the needs of the faithful in this local Church and to carry on the rich heritage of pastoral dedication that those who



GEORGIA BULLETIN PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Hispanic children are among the numerous representatives from the faith and civic community who welcomed Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory as the new archbishop of Atlanta during his rite of canonical installation Jan. 17.

preceded us have established as a hallmark and a goal," he said.

He also referenced the importance of the day on which he was being installed, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Today, which is a moment of historic importance for the Archdiocese of Atlanta and of personal joy for me, is also a day of great significance for all the peoples of our nation," he said. "We gather in prayer and festive joy on Dr. King's Memorial Day and in a city that holds a special place

among all American cities that reverence this great man's legacy."

He went on to say that he hoped the "values of racial justice and harmony" that were so powerfully espoused by Dr. King would continue to be an enduring legacy.

Mary Anne Castranio is a staff writer for The Georgia Bulletin. Priscilla Greear, Gretchen Keiser, Suzanne Haugh, Erika Anderson and Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.



faith
in Every Student

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass,
Part 5; youth pilgrimage;
eucharistic adoration list

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JANUARY 28, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 17

Fight for life marches onward

BISHOP JUGIS, OTHERS
FROM DIOCESE OF
CHARLOTTE PARTICIPATE

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON

President George W. Bush, speaking via telephone to March for Life participants, said the federal government is "working to promote a culture of life, to promote compassion for women and their unborn babies."

The president spoke at the beginning of the Jan. 24 rally.

"We know that in a culture that does not protect the most dependent," he said, "the handicapped, the elderly, the

See MARCH, page 8

More Coverage

page 9 | Judge litmus

tests; Terri Schiavo decision

page 15 | Abortion
politics; Life Principles



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Ann Marie Cosgrove of Minneapolis and Barbara Gough of Boise, Idaho, walk toward the Supreme Court during the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 24. Both women said they had abortions in the 1980s and were demonstrating for unborn children and their rights.

Despite reassurances, minority Christians in Iraq are afraid

'TRUE CAMPAIGN'
AGAINST CHRISTIANS
UNDERWAY, SAYS PRIEST

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY

Each time a church in Iraq is attacked or a religious figure is threatened or kidnapped, most church leaders there quickly explain that the incident does not signal an assault against Christianity.

But Christians in Iraq are afraid.

As a tiny minority in an overwhelmingly Muslim nation, Christians enjoyed relative religious freedom under former President Saddam Hussein's otherwise oppressive, though secular, rule.

The U.S.-led embargo, then war and occupation of Iraq that toppled Saddam's dictatorship brought further hardship to the people there. Damaged infrastructure and

See IRAQ, page 13

A KNIGHTLY GIFT

Council raises funds, donates to Holy Angels

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 10852 of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte recently made their largest single donation to Holy Angels in Belmont.

The knights toured Holy Angels Jan. 15 and presented an \$18,000 check. The money was raised through the Knights of Columbus' Operation LAMB campaign to help people with mental retardation.

See KNIGHTS, page 6



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Dennis Kuhn of Holy Angels (second from right) accepts a donation from Knights of Columbus Council 10852. Also pictured: Richard White, Operation LAMB co-chair; Joe Hughs, grand knight; and Greg Argenas, Operation LAMB co-chair.

A LEGEND LIVES ON

Annual event celebrates life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Music performances unite past, present

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Although a cold drizzle fell outside, the warmth of Jesus' love could be felt flowing through the room as The Stroller Singers sang at the Hilton at University Place Jan. 22.

The Stroller Singers, from Torrence Chapel AME Zion

Church in Cornelius, were performing for about 100 people who had gathered to celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to praise Jesus Christ through traditional black music.

The diocesan African American Affairs Ministry

See MLK, page 6

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The big goodbye

Parishioner honored for service
to poor, parish

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In Our Schools

Mad science in school;
High Point excellence

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Perspectives

Cell phones vs. Mass; God's
role in the tsunami disaster?

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

BLIND FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Kerri Regan, 17, offers to answer a question during class at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, N.Y., Jan. 13. Regan, who is blind, was a contestant in the "Jeopardy!" teen tournament, scheduled for broadcast in late January.

Catholic high school student competes in 'Jeopardy!' teen tournament

HICKSVILLE, N.Y. (CNS) — Because of a confidentiality agreement, 17-year-old Kerri Regan could not reveal if she bet big bucks on the "Jeopardy!" daily double. But she did mention her secret to qualifying as one of only 15 high school students to appear on the "Jeopardy!" teen tournament this year.

"I read a lot and soak up a lot of useless trivia," said Kerri, a senior at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville. She also tunes into "Jeopardy!" almost every night.

She beat 1,500 teens for the chance to fly to Los Angeles and participate in the show, where players pick a category, host Alex Trebek gives a clue and the contestant who hits the buzzer first must supply the correct response in the form of a question.

She said Trebek enjoyed talking to her, but he really loved her dog, referring to the 2-year-old black Labrador retriever that constantly accompanies her. Kerri is blind and the Labrador is her guide dog.

Kerri appeared on "Jeopardy!" Jan. 27. She also appeared on commercials with Trebek promoting the quiz show's teen tournament.

Recently, with her dog at her feet in her advanced placement government and politics class, Kerri typed notes into

a small Braille computer on her desk. She often wonders why people are so interested in her life because, "I am the same as everyone else except I read Braille and take a dog to school."

But it is hard not to marvel at her everyday life. She finds her chair every day among hundreds of chairs in the lunchroom. She reads books by feeling the words with her fingertips. She listens to people without being prejudiced by their appearance.

Holy Trinity faculty members applauded her wit, intelligence, devout faith, adaptability and the way she affects others' lives.

In addition to taking advanced placement courses, Kerri worked at Catholic Charities and was runner-up for homecoming queen. She is a leader in the Science Olympiads, which recognize achievement in science, and participates in youth ministry programs at her school and parish.

Kerri plans to attend college and become a history teacher. She has been trained to be an advocate for herself in a seeing world, but she also knows that God will help her overcome anything that comes her way.

"Every once in a while, I still whack into fire doors or get lost," she said, but added, "Honestly I have never thought about being anything else (but blind)."

Bishops' secretariat publishes new directory of lay groups

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth has published the eighth edition of its Directory of Lay Movements, Organizations and Professional Associations.

In a Jan. 7 letter to the bishops accompanying the 2005-2007 edition, Bishop Dale J. Melczek of Gary, Ind., chairman of the Committee on the Laity, said the directory "contains most of the commonly known Catholic movements and organizations that are national in scope and whose membership consists of a majority of lay persons."

The 46-page publication contains brief descriptions of more than 115 U.S. Catholic lay movements, professional associations, organizations, secular institutes, third orders and lay associations, and lay missionary/volunteer service groups.

It also provides for each listing a

name, address and phone number for contact, as well as Web and e-mail addresses, where available.

According to the directory's introductory material, some of the listed groups that are not exclusively lay are included "because their work affects the life and mission of the laity and/or because their membership has a significant lay component."

The directory includes Catholic groups that exist to support lay ministry, such as the National Association for Lay Ministry and the National Center for the Laity, along with many well-known Catholic agencies, such as Catholic Charities USA and the National Catholic Educational Association, whose missions are broader.

The secretariat said it welcomes suggestions for groups to be included in future editions, and the last page of the directory is a form to facilitate that.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — As the 40th anniversary of the closing of *Vatican Council II* approaches, many Catholics are still unaware of the importance of this ecumenical council. Msgr. John McSweeney will give several presentations on what Vatican II really was and its importance to the Church. All sessions will meet in the New Life Center, room 102, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The program meets Mondays, Feb. 7 and 28; March 7 and 21; and April 4 from 7-8:15 p.m. or Tuesdays, Feb. 8; March 1, 8 and 22; and April 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Childcare is available by reservation at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings

take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday (TGIF)*, a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Do you long for healing in your life? Healing from loss, grief, crisis, loneli-

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says high number of migrants, refugees requires dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the high number of migrants and refugees in the world requires dialogue to favor friendship and cultural understanding.

The pope made the remarks at a Sunday blessing Jan. 16, which the church celebrates in many countries as the World Day for Migrants and Refugees.

"I offer my cordial greetings to all migrants and hope that dialogue may favor the growth of sympathy and understanding among the various cultures," he said.

The pope examined the sensitive question of social integration of migrants. He said integration should not be seen as "an assimilation that leads migrants to suppress or to forget their own cultural identity."

Instead, the pope said, it should be a process of mutual sharing that can gradually shape societies and cultures when "valid aspects" of newcomers are accepted.

"In this process the migrant is intent on taking the necessary steps toward social inclusion, such as learning the national language and complying with the laws and requirements at work, so as to avoid the occurrence of exasperated differentiation," the pope said.

The United Nations estimated that at the start of 2004 there were 17 million asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced people, returned refugees and stateless people in the world. The recent earthquake and tsunami in Asia and Africa increased that number by several million.

ness or any other sufferings? Learn how suffering can be a source of grace in your life and the lives of others. Loretta Bedner, regional director of the deSales Spirituality Center, will present "Healing Our Deepest Wounds" Feb. 4, 7-9 p.m. and Feb. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St. A Spanish presentation is also available. Seating is limited. To reserve your space, request the Spanish presentation, or reserve childcare, please call Larry Kwan at (336) 882-7204 or Jane Hughes at (336) 8823393 by Jan. 31.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or e-mail stalscss@charter.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the

military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the DeSales House behind the church. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Newspaper reports Hitler ordered kidnapping of Pope Pius XII

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Adolf Hitler personally ordered one of his senior Nazi officers to arrange the kidnapping of Pope Pius XII toward the end of World War II, according to new information cited by an Italian newspaper.

Instead of carrying out Hitler's order, the officer met secretly with the pope in May 1944 to warn him of the plot. A month later, the Nazis were fleeing Rome, and Hitler's plan could not be carried out.

The reconstruction of the kidnapping scenario was published Jan. 15 by the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*, based on testimony taken by church experts examining a possible declaration of sainthood for Pope Pius.

Purported plans by the Nazis to abduct Pope Pius and take him out of Italy first came to light in the Nuremberg trials after World War II, but details have been sketchy.

According to *Avvenire*, church experts in Germany received sworn testimony March 24, 1972, from Gen. Karl Friedrich Otto Wolff, head of the Waffen SS, or Nazi elite guard, in Italy.

Wolff said that in 1943 Hitler had first raised the idea of abducting Pope Pius and removing him from the

Vatican, but his aides were able to talk him out of the idea. Then in 1944, as German forces were in retreat, Wolff met with Hitler again in Germany.

"I received a personal order from Hitler to kidnap Pope Pius XII," Wolff told the church investigators.

Upon returning to Rome, Wolff arranged to meet with the pope. After entering the Vatican clandestinely in civilian clothes, Wolff told the pontiff of Hitler's order and warned him to be on guard.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who is working on the sainthood cause of Pope Pius, said Wolff's account coincides with other evidence that has emerged about Hitler's mistrust of the pope and his hatred of the church.

Vatican historians have documented Hitler's antipathy toward the pope on other occasions, arguing that the Nazi dictator saw the church as an enemy of National Socialism and a friend of the Jews.

Despite criticism by some Jewish groups, the work on the sainthood cause of Pope Pius has continued in recent years. This spring, the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes is expected to begin discussions on the material gathered to date.

That's good wool



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope John Paul II extends his hand over two lambs in his private study at the Vatican Jan. 21. Pure wool from the lambs will be used during the year to make a liturgical vestment called the pallium, a narrow circular band worn around the shoulders of the pope and some archbishops.

NC CATHOLIC TO CONVERT TO MONTHLY MAGAZINE FORMAT

RALEIGH (CNS) — *NC Catholic*, the newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese, will become a four-color monthly magazine, with the first issue planned to arrive in homes by Easter, March 27.

"While this is certainly the most dramatic change in our diocesan publication, the *NC Catholic* has evolved continually over its history," said Father Joseph Vetter, who headed a publications committee to study the feasibility and desirability of converting the newspaper to a magazine format.

Father Vetter, a former editor of the newspaper and former chancellor of the

diocese, said the paper's "relationship with readers changed when it ceased being a weekly newspaper due to rising costs."

While the magazine will contain information on upcoming events, the diocese will utilize its new Web site, now under construction, for current news and events taking place in the diocese.

The site, scheduled to be online in late March, will have a comprehensive diocesan calendar and a regularly updated "e-pistle," which will contain a combination of news items and scheduled events.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 30 — 2:30 p.m. Mass
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Jan. 31 — 9 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick School, Charlotte

Feb. 2 — 9:45 a.m. Mass
Our Lady of Grace School, Greensboro

Feb. 3 — 10:30 a.m. Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte

ACROSS THE SPECTRUM



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Father James Hawker, vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte, speaks at the parish catechetical leaders' retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Jan. 13.

Catechists gather for reflection, inspiration at retreat

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — "The people gathered here truly reflect the rainbow of educational ministry within the church," Father James Hawker said.

"Having leaders from Catholic schools, faith formation, campus ministry, youth ministry and RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) gathered together in one place for prayer, reflection and conversation is a great grace," he said.

Father Hawker, vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte, spoke during a one-day retreat for those involved in parish and campus Catholic education at the Catholic Conference Center Jan. 13.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis opened the day's program.

"I am most grateful for your ministry," Bishop Jugis told more than 60 attendees. "I am so grateful for individuals like you who hear the Lord's call to come into this ministry."

Bishop Jugis spoke on the Year of the Eucharist, which runs until October, saying that, "The Eucharist is where our

lived experience of the risen savior is going to be intensified for us."

The bishop suggested that those in educational ministry use Pope John Paul II's document "Ecclesia de Eucharistia" for prayer reflection.

"During the Year of the Eucharist, evaluate your own spiritual practices regarding preparedness (for Mass), which is challenging when classes are sandwiched between Masses," Bishop Jugis said. "Do spiritual reflection beforehand, read the readings."

Commenting on the importance of such retreats as this, he said, "All the ministries of the church have to have the spiritual dimension as the primary focus of their ministries. This is a way of responding to the need that their catechetical ministries be centered in Christ."

"The spirit of the Lord is here, present in power and love," Father Hawker said. "When Jesus said 'When two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst,' he was talking about you and you know it."

Father Hawker focused on this

Father Tom Stott dies at 58

ALBANY, N.Y. — Father Tom Stott, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte on medical leave, died at the VA Hospital in Albany, N.Y., Jan. 18. He was 58.

Father Stott was pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton until his failing health brought about his medical leave. He was residing at his family home in Albany.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Francis de Sales Church in Albany Jan. 21. Burial followed in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Stott at St. Dorothy Church Jan. 28.

Father Stott was ordained to the priesthood by then-Bishop Michael J. Begley at St. Ann Church in Charlotte on Oct. 15, 1983. His assignments included assistant pastor at St. Ann Church and St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, and pastor of St.



Father Tom Stott

Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden, St. John Church in Waynesville and Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy.

Father Stott was also a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War.

Troop 8's Teten now an Eagle Scout

CHARLOTTE — Matt Teten, a member of Boy Scout Troop 8 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Matt, a junior at Weddington

High School, worked at Messiah Lutheran Preschool to earn the rank. His project included building a picnic area for the Charlotte school and staining and repairing an existing play structure.

year's readings from the Gospel of Matthew: "Matthew had to wrestle with problems, wrestle with reality, just as we do every day, in our jobs, with ourselves. We try to make sense out of reality and help others to make sense of reality."

Among Matthew's themes, he said, is the message that discipleship is difficult: "Jesus makes it very plain through Matthew that discipleship requires humility, trust, zeal for the house of God."

Discipleship requires unity.

Father Hawker commented on Matthew 9:2-8, the story of a paralytic brought to Jesus to be healed.

"The beautiful message of this Scripture is that we are called and enabled to bring people to Jesus, and we cannot do it alone," Father Hawker said. "Right in this room, right now, we are bringing people to Jesus through prayer, through encouragement, through support."

"When I look at your face and you look at my face, we see the face of Jesus. We are the rainbow," he said. "We value one another, we cherish one another because we are all in this together."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

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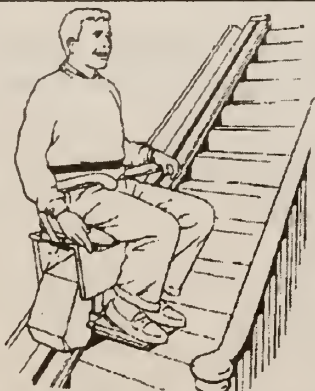
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LIVING THE FAITH

THE BIG GOODBYE

Parishioner honored for longtime service to poor, community

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
- CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — "Nobody had a better time in Clay County than [me]," Edgar Moeller said.

More than 100 people, just some of those with whom he's been having such a good time for the past 37 years, honored Moeller, 87, at a Mass and luncheon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Jan. 7.

Moeller is leaving Hayesville this month for Atlanta to be close to his son, Edward.

"Ed(gar) has been our resident Catholic on the board and has made such a terrific contribution," said Rev. Rufus Stark, chair of the Hinton Rural Life Center (HRLC), a Methodist organization that provides housing and other services to the poor and elderly in and near Clay County and trains Methodist pastors.

Mollie Stewart, HRLC staffer, said Moeller was the first person she met when she arrived in Clay County; she'll miss the hugs he gives her whenever they meet.

"We feel so honored to have had him on our board and helping to extend services to Clay County," said Karen Borchers of United Way of Cherokee and Clay County.

Judith Alvarado, executive director of REACH of Clay County, gave Moeller a plaque during the luncheon.

"Ed has touched my heart and the hearts of many in REACH," she said. "I love you, we love you and we're going to miss you. You'd better stay in touch."

Moeller was a lector and usher at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. He founded the local Meals on Wheels and the Elderly Neighbor program, which provided home repairs, visits and transportation for the elderly; was on the Southwest Regional

"It's just part of being a Catholic — that you'll help the poor."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Ed Moeller (left) receives a hug from fellow Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioner Pat Fesenmyer during a Jan. 7 luncheon honoring Moeller's service to the parish and community.

Council on Aging; and was on the Clay-Cherokee Christian Housing Inc., which built DeSoto Square, a 32-unit apartment complex for low-income elderly people.

"In many ways, in these activities he represented the Church," said Father George Kloster, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

"He was very ecumenical in his perspective," said Father Kloster.

Moeller credits the Sisters of

Loretto with "pounding" education into him at Sacred Heart School in St. Louis, Mo., and where he graduated in 1931.

"They taught me I could learn anything if I put my mind to it," he said.

His first jobs in those Depression years included working on an assembly line for 22 cents an hour. He served in the military during World War II and landed at Normandy, June 12, six days after D-Day. As a

civilian, he was an Army logistician.

After visiting Hayesville over the years, Moeller retired and he and wife, Barbara, moved there on New Year's Day 1967. Barbara was also involved in community activities.

One of his first volunteer activities was providing transportation for elderly women.

"That opened my eyes to what poverty really is in Clay County," he said. "You got to know (people) and how times were really tough here. One man told me he made 22 cents on an assembly line."

It was the same pay Moeller had earned years earlier in that Depression-era factory.

Ed and Barbara were married 52 years when she died of Alzheimer's disease in 1999. Moeller continued volunteering.

"It's just part of being a Catholic — that you'll help the poor," he said. "It seems to me that was sort of a requirement no matter where I went."

His neighbors, all natives of the area, were "the best I've had in four states," he said. "Honest, hard-working, God-fearing people. They think family is the most important thing, and I think that's right. They're not chasing the almighty dollar."

Moeller's greatest satisfaction, though, was to help wherever he could.

"There is more reward," he said, "in doing for others than any money you earn in a profession or job."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Are you Catholic, but your spouse is not? Are you raising your children Catholic?

If you have an "interfaith family" and would like to share your story in an upcoming issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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FROM THE COVER

Annual event celebrates Rev. King

MLK, from page 1

sponsored the annual event, celebrated for the past 18 years. The ministry was established in 1985 to give visibility to the work of black Catholics in the diocese and educate various diocesan groups to the needs and contributions of black Catholics in the church.

According to Deacon Curtiss Todd, vicar of the African American Affairs Ministry and vice chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, the ministry celebrates Rev. King's birthday each year in order to "keep his dream alive."

"We have a tendency to forget African Americans who are regarded as heroes, and what they accomplished," he said. "Young people today know the name Martin Luther King Jr., but they may not know his message."

In previous years, the celebration consisted of a guest speaker and a series of workshops, held on the weekend before National Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the third Monday in January.

For the 2005 celebration, the event was held the weekend following the holiday, so as not to conflict with other commemorative events taking place in the Charlotte area. Event planners also strove to present an ecumenical program, appealing to all races and religions.

At a morning prayer breakfast, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Shipman, pastor of Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church in Charlotte, gave the keynote speech.

In his conclusion, Rev. Shipman said that Rev. King once said that his greatest fear was not being put in jail or even assassinated; his greatest fear was a disinterested church.

"We are the church," said Rev. Shipman. "And if we allow racial injustice to occur, we have become a 'disinterested church.'"

The morning's activities concluded with a tour to the Levine Museum of the New South to view "Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers," a permanent exhibit featuring Charlotte as a case study illustrating the changes in the South since the Civil War.

America has lost ground in recent years in the struggle for racial unity, said Sandy Murdock, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and a board member of the African American Affairs Ministry.

"We were most unified as a people during the lifetime of Dr. Martin Luther King," said Murdock. "Throughout the black community, there is a feeling that we often go to the aid of others before going to the aid of our own."

"Since his time, we have not had that leadership," she said. "I do hope that there is someone who can make a mark as he did."

A preacher and civil rights leader, Rev. King sought to bring peaceful reconciliation between all Americans, urging racial justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race.

While in Memphis, Tenn., to support striking black workers in 1968, Rev. King was assassinated April 4 by James Earl Ray, an escaped convict. After his death, Rev. King became a symbol of protest in the struggle for racial justice.

At the Jan. 22 celebration, choirs

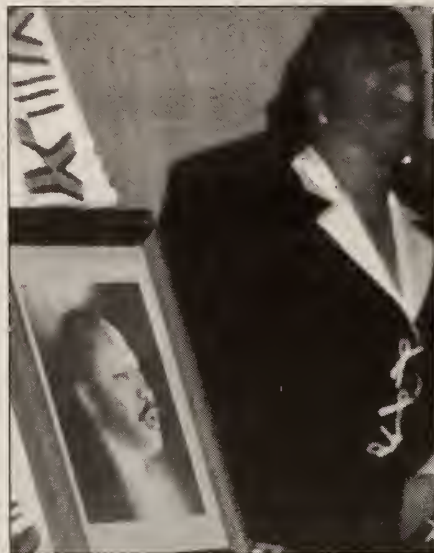


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A member of The Stroller Singers performs at the diocesan Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Jan. 22.

from five local Catholic and Protestant churches performed gospel music from key periods in black history.

"Each choir represents a different period in the evolution of gospel music from the 1800s to the 1960s," said Rosheene Adams, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and a board member of the African American Affairs Ministry.

The earliest black American music — the Negro spiritual or slave song — dealt primarily with the concept of triumph over adversity. Early gospel music grew out of the Reconstruction Era of the 1870s, when newly freed slaves struggled against racism and prejudice.

In the 1950s, gospel music was reborn as freedom songs used by demonstrators for civil rights. The songs continued the tradition of black music focusing on God's promises of love and salvation.

"Martin Luther King came out of the Baptist Church and I'm sure he had (experienced) the kind of songs we listened to today," said Ed Hood, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

"No matter what denomination, race or creed you come from, music is a source of softening the heart for the word of God," said Hood.

"Music was a savior for blacks in the olden days, sung to escape (the harsh life of slavery)," said Gigi Mangum, choir director for The Golden Angels, the choir at the North Charlotte House of Prayer. "For me, music is a place to go higher and rise above our circumstances."

"Martin Luther King was trying to bring everyone together on one accord," said Hood. "That is the only way that God and Jesus would have us to live here."

Rev. King taught that the way to have a peaceful life is to bring all people together in peace, love and harmony through Jesus Christ, said Hood.

"In God's eyes, there is no black and white," Hood said. "He only looks at the spirit."



African American Affairs Ministry is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Council raises funds for Holy Angels, other organizations

KNIGHTS, from page 1

"We saw there was a need for the funds," said Greg Argenas, a co-chair of the council's Operation LAMB campaign. "The work they do is incredible."

"We've had a long standing relationship with the Knights and they've always been so generous," said Dennis Kuhn, Holy Angels' executive vice president and chief operating officer. "This is an extraordinary gift ... and we're deeply appreciative of everything they've done for us."

Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides innovative programs and services for its residents — children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

"The money we've received will help with the operation and needs for medical equipment and services we provide to the children and adults with mental retardation," said Kuhn.

The same day the knights also visited Joshua's Farm in Charlotte, where they saw a riding exhibition and made a \$6,000 donation.

Founded in 1996, Joshua's Farm is a working farm exposing disabled children and adults to therapeutic horseback riding, animal interaction, sensory gardens and accessible nature trails.

The 11-year-old Council 10852 singly raised more than \$55,000 for the LAMB Foundation of NC in 2004, the first time in the now 32-year history of the foundation that an individual council in North Carolina has exceeded the \$50,000 mark in one calendar year.

"A lot of people worked very hard to accomplish this goal," said Argenas.

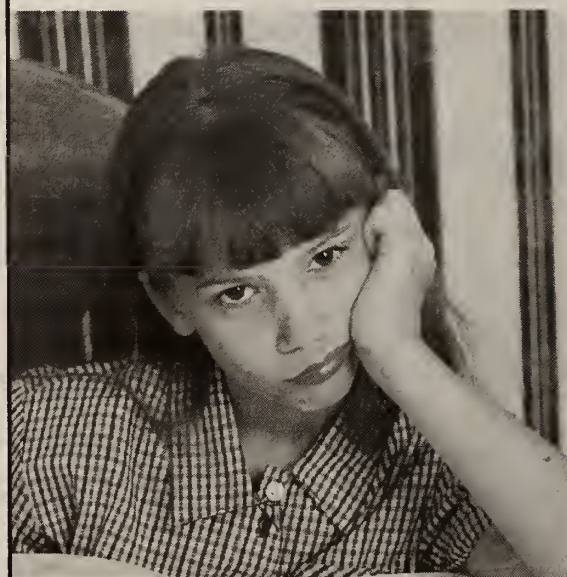
The Knights of Columbus raised the funds for their Operation LAMB drive through corporate and private donations and their famous Tootsie Roll campaigns at area retailers. Since its inception in 1974, Operation LAMB, named after the biblical quotation, "... whatsoever you do to the least among my brethren, that you also do to me" (Matthew 25:40), has raised more than \$14 million to assist citizens of North Carolina with mental retardation.

"We were pleased to raise the amount of money we've raised this year," said Richard White, co-chair of the Operation LAMB campaign. "It allows us to increase what we do."

Other local and statewide organizations to benefit from Council 10852's fund-raising include Special Olympics, Mecklenburg ARC, St. Matthew Church, Allegro Foundation, Easter Seals, Life Span, Carolina Computer Access Center and Christian Adoption.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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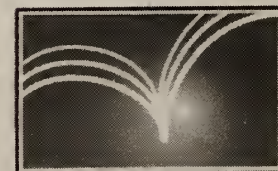
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YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Introibo Ad Altare Dei

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 5

Last week, we concluded our introductory material on the Mass. We recognized that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament Passover ritual with his sacrifice, which he instituted at the Last Supper, the first Mass.

This week, we begin the longer and more arduous task of examining this ritual established by Our Lord and developed by his church. It is essential to note that the heart of the Mass, the consecration of the bread and wine into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ, was demonstrated by Our Lord and given to his church. This act is attributed to Our Lord. The remainder of the Mass developed organically as the Holy Spirit inspired the church through the centuries.

We will come to discover that every ritual, activity, posture and response is laden with meaning from sacred Scripture and sacred tradition. So, the purpose of these teachings is to reveal the more profound meaning within each action of the Mass.

Before each Mass begins, the celebrant and the ministers must first enter the sanctuary. This ritual is known as the entrance procession and is accompanied by the opening hymn, which prepares the faithful to unite their minds and hearts to the worship of God. This is the first of two processions in the Mass. (Later, we will examine the second procession: when the faithful process forward to receive holy Communion.)

The entrance procession includes the celebrant, either a bishop or a priest, any concelebrating priests, deacons and the altar servers. The meaning of the entrance procession represents our Lord's earthly pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he processed through the streets on a donkey to shouts of joy and victory by the awaiting crowd who held palm branches and welcomed him in song. Once a year, we recall this event on Palm Sunday. Within one week, this same crowd shouted for the crucifixion and death of their king. And so Christ would enter the sanctuary of Calvary wearing a crown of thorns to be enthroned upon the cross. From the cross, our Lord and king was victorious as he defeated sin, conquered death and redeemed mankind.

And so, for centuries the priest would

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



arrive at the steps of the sanctuary and recite Psalm 42: "Introibo ad altare Dei. Ad Deum qui laetificat iuventutem meam." ["I will go unto the Altar of God. To God, who gives joy to my youth."] The entrance procession is a time for joy and victory, for our salvation is near!

Upon entering the sanctuary, the priest reverences the altar with a kiss. The altar has always been considered the greatest sign in the sanctuary for Christ, whose own body became the altar upon which he would sacrifice himself to the Father. The altar takes great prominence in the center of the sanctuary. It is the focal point of the Mass and the juncture between heaven and earth, time and eternity.

The altar is consecrated with sacred chrism and usually contains a relic of a saint. The relics in the altar have a two-fold significance: 1) the first altars were erected over the tombs of Christians in the catacombs; and 2) the Mass unites the sacrifice of a martyr's life with the sacrifice of Christ in the Mass.

Due to its importance, the altar receives the first incensation; three others may follow throughout the Mass. The sweet aroma of incense prepares the altar for sacrifice. Of all the symbolic ceremonies in the Mass, the use of incense is perhaps the oldest and the most widespread ritual, historically found in Jewish, Greek and Roman ceremonies. It is also mentioned extensively in Sacred Scripture, especially in reference to worship of God.

Now that the celebrant has ascended the steps of the sanctuary of Jerusalem, revered the altar with a kiss and incensed it, the Mass is ready to begin. We will continue next week.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Year of the Eucharist Youth Pilgrimage to BAC

BELMONT — Bishop Peter J. Jugis invites all high school and college students in the Diocese of Charlotte to join him for a Lenten spiritual pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey.

The afternoon of prayer and reflection will take place on Sunday, Feb. 27.

The pilgrimage is a part of the diocesan observance of the Year of the Eucharist, proclaimed by the Holy Father. During this year, which runs through October 2005, a series of programs and observances is scheduled to take place from eucharistic adoration in various parishes to the diocesan Eucharistic Congress Sept. 23-24 in Charlotte.

According to Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden and head of the dioc-

esan planning committee for the Year of the Eucharist, "the youth pilgrimage is a wonderful privilege to commemorate and devote ourselves more faithfully to Our Lord, who is truly present in the holy Eucharist."

The schedule for the youth pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey includes a procession through the campus, remarks by Bishop Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari, Benediction and an informal bring-your-own supper.

WANT TO GO?

The diocesan youth pilgrimage will take place at Belmont Abbey, 3:30-7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005. For more info, contact Paul Kotlowski at pjkotlowski@charlottediocese.org.

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews	Holy Redeemer Church	Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
Arden	St. Barnabas Church	Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Asheboro	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m. daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Asheville	Basilica of St. Lawrence	daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
Belmont Abbey	Mary, Help of Christians Church	first Fridays following the 12:15 p.m. Mass for one hour
Boone	St. Elizabeth Church	first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
Bryson City	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour perpetual adoration
Charlotte	Our Lady of the Assumption Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m.
	St. Gabriel Church	Saturday, in chapel
	St. Matthew Church	first Fridays following the 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
	St. Peter Church	Friday evenings, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; first Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m.
	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
	St. Vincent de Paul Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m.
Clemmons	Holy Family Church	first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 p.m. Saturday
Concord	St. James the Greater Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8-9 a.m.
Denver	Holy Spirit Church	first Fridays 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other
Forest City	Immaculate Conception Church	Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Franklin	St. Francis of Assisi Church	eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
Gastonia	St. Michael Church	first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Greensboro	St. Paul the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
Hendersonville	Immaculate Conception Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hickory	St. Aloysius Church	first Fridays: call church for time
High Point	Christ the King Church	perpetual adoration
	Maryfield Chapel	Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Huntersville	St. Mark Church	Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Jefferson	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. ending with Benediction and followed by a Spanish charismatic prayer group;
Kannapolis	St. Joseph Church	Fridays, 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m., ending with Benediction and followed by Spanish/English bilingual Mass
Kemersville	Holy Cross Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
Lexington	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Fridays following morning Mass until 5 p.m.; Benediction following 11 a.m. Mass Sundays
Linville	St. Bernadette Church	Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass
Mocksville	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays at 11 a.m.; Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Monroe	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Saturdays 6:30 p.m.-12 a.m.
Mooresville	St. Therese Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 4:45 p.m.
Mt. Airy	Holy Angels Church	Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Newton	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
Salisbury	Sacred Heart Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Spruce Pine	St. Lucien Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Statesville	St. Philip the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Swannanoa	St. Margaret Mary Church	first Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.
Sylva	St. Mary Church	first Saturday following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
Thomasville	Our Lady of the Highways Church	first Fridays, 12-7 p.m.
Tryon	St. John the Baptist Church	Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Waynesville	St. John the Evangelist Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem	St. Leo the Great Church	first Fridays following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m., except during summer months

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

March for Life continues

MARCH, from page 1

unloved or (those who are) simply inconvenient become increasingly vulnerable."

Bush pointed to laws passed during his first term in office, including the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 2003. Implementation of the law has been held up by three separate federal district courts — in New York, Nebraska and California — which have declared it unconstitutional.

Under the measure, "infants who are born despite an attempted abortion are now protected by law," he said to applause. "So are nurses and doctors who refused to be any part of an abortion."

And, under the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which he signed into law last April, "prosecutors can now charge those who harm or kill a pregnant woman with harming or killing her unborn child," Bush said.

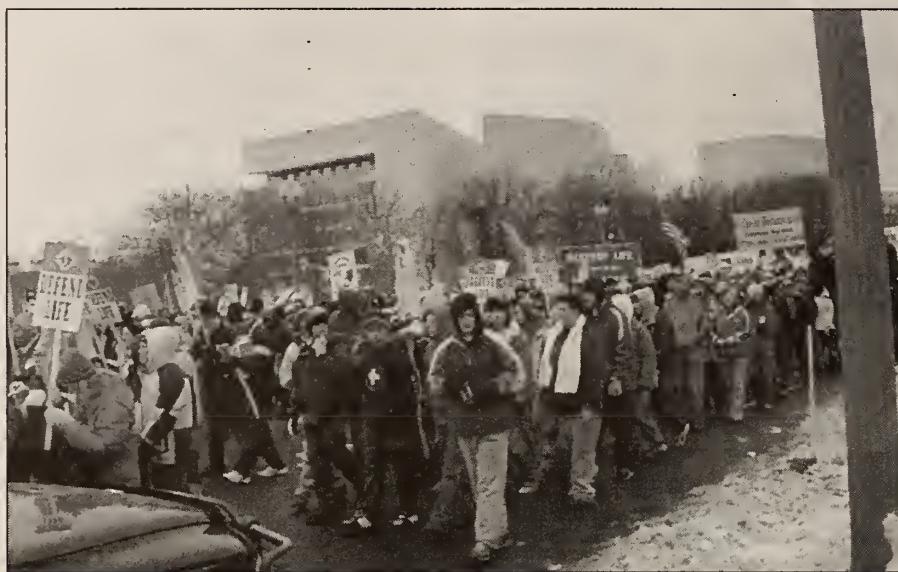
In an allusion to federal funding for cloning and for stem-cell research, Bush added, "We're also moving ahead in terms of medicine and research to make sure that the gifts of science are consistent with our highest values of freedom, equality, family and human dignity. We will not sanction the creation of life only to destroy it."

The president made his remarks from Camp David in Maryland. The rally preceded their annual march to the Supreme Court building.

The March for Life usually takes place on the Jan. 22 anniversary date of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions that legalized abortion virtually on demand. But when the anniversary date falls on the weekend, as it did this year, organizers choose the following Monday so participants can lobby their respective legislators on pro-life issues.

Despite a weekend snowstorm that socked much of the East Coast and Midwest, march organizer Nellie Gray estimated that 100,000 took part in the rally and march.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and many others from the Diocese of Charlotte participated in the annual events. Bishop Jugis also celebrated the 10:30 a.m. Mass at



COURTESY PHOTO

A contingent of people from the Diocese of Charlotte walks toward the Supreme Court during the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 24.

the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Maryann Tyrer, a teacher at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville, made her second trip to the March for Life. She came to the event with 130 students in three buses. After being delayed due to snow, the group made it to Washington Jan. 23 and slept on a gymnasium floor at Catholic University.

"We're here to make a stand for life in all its stages," said Tyrer. "We hope the presence of this huge crowd will send a message to our elected leaders that a huge portion of the electorate is pro-life."

Tina Witt, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, made her fourth trip to the march with fellow parishioners and parishioners from Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe. The cold weather did not dampen anyone's spirits, she said.

"Everybody was on fire to be there and stand as a witness for the unborn," said Witt. "The world will start to see that this can't be hidden anymore."

Speaking out against evil

On the eve of the March for Life, Cardinal Keeler celebrated a vigil Mass opening the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine

of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. There he told a congregation of more than 5,500 people not to give up hope in their efforts to change the country's abortion laws.

"The evil must end," he said.

Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" in the Roe vs. Wade case, said of her recent petition to the Supreme Court to overturn the decision, "This is the day that I have been waiting for. ... We're looking forward to having the operations of death overturned."

The Roe decision threw out most state restrictions on abortion, while Doe, its

companion decision, permitted abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.

Politically motivated

Virtually all of the other speakers were Republican members of Congress, many of whom praised their president and their party's approach to life issues, while decrying what they called "judicial activism" which brought about the Roe vs. Wade decision and the blockage of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Bush, said Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, is "a friend who agrees with us," while his predecessor, President Bill Clinton, "blocked our moves at every turn." The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, he added, was blocked by "an activist federal judge (who) usurped the will of the people."

"Somewhere in the Constitution they (judges) found a right to privacy, which included the right to take a baby's life even when it is one inch from being able to fill its own lungs" with oxygen during birth, said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said he would introduce the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act to require in part that women seeking abortions at 20 weeks' gestation or longer be informed that the child in their womb can "feel excruciating pain, two to four times more pain than you or I would feel from the same type of assault."

Smith added, "We are a movement with deep hope and expectation, that with God's powerful grace, the culture of death will be vanquished by the culture of life. We pray for the day when branding an unborn child as 'unwanted' will no longer mean a death sentence in America."

Editor Kevin E. Murray and David Snyder contributed to this story.

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- and gorgeous rolling hills of Italy's countryside



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Terri Schindler Schiavo is shown here with her mother, Mary Schindler, in a photograph taken in late 2001.

Supreme Court declines to act in case of brain-damaged woman

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to review a lower court decision overturning the Florida law that allowed Gov. Jeb Bush to order reinsertion of a feeding tube for Terri Schindler Schiavo, who is brain-damaged.

The decision, issued without comment Jan. 24, moved forward the efforts of Schiavo's estranged husband, Michael, to remove her feeding tube again, although other court actions initiated by the woman's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, continue.

"What they've done here today is incredible. It's judicial homicide," said Bob Schindler of the Supreme Court.

He was attending the March for Life in Washington.

Schiavo, 40, has been impaired for the past 14 years. She can breathe on her own but requires nutrition and hydration through a feeding tube.

Michael Schiavo, who now has two children by another woman, says Terri would want the feeding tube removed. The Schindlers say that she would want to live,

in part because of her Catholic beliefs.

Terri Schiavo, who lives at a nursing home in Florida, has been on a feeding tube since 1990, when she collapsed as the result of what doctors believe was a potassium imbalance, causing her brain to be deprived of oxygen for several minutes.

She was taken off the feeding tube Oct. 15, 2003, but it was restored a few days later by Bush's executive order. He issued the order after the Florida Legislature passed "Terri's Law," which allowed the governor's intervention in cases in which the patient has no living will, is in a persistent vegetative state and has had nutrition and hydration tubes removed and a family member has challenged the removal.

Nearly a year later, on Sept. 24, 2004, the Florida Supreme Court said the law violated the state Constitution's requirement of separation of powers by allowing the state Legislature and the governor to overturn a lower court decision.

Bush's spokesman said the governor had no more legal options in the case now that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled.

Debate heats up over abortion litmus test for judicial nominees

Advocates on both sides step-up activism

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As concern about present and future appointments to the Supreme Court and other federal courts nears fever pitch among organizations working to assure that Roe vs. Wade remains law, the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities is taking a more measured approach.

"We're a church, not a political organization," said Gail Quinn, director of the bishops' pro-life secretariat. "We do not support or oppose nominees. That's not our role."

The committee's contribution to the debate on court nominees began Jan. 6 with a letter from Cardinal William H. Keeler calling on the U.S. Senate to reject the view that "nominees who oppose the purposeful taking of innocent human life (are) somehow unfit for judicial office in the United States."

The Catholic Church's right-to-life ethic "has profound consequences not only for abortion, but for many other areas of life, including the death penalty, the application of scientific research to human subjects, the right to adequate health care, and the role of the state in promoting the common good," said the cardinal.

"Our civil society will be all the poorer if senators, as a matter of practice, prevent a Senate vote on well-qualified judicial nominees whose consciences have been formed in this ethic," he said.

The Baltimore cardinal is chairman of the pro-life committee, which also is considering a nationwide postcard campaign aimed at the U.S. Senate — the first on a life issue since the 1998 blitz on partial-birth abortion — as well as educational campaigns targeting both members of Congress and the general public.

But the opposition to nominees viewed as pro-life will be staunch, judging from the outcry already being generated by groups such as NARAL Pro-Choice America and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Through its Web site, NARAL Pro-Choice America is recruiting what it calls "rapid responders" to mobilize against any Supreme Court nominee that the organization finds unacceptable.

Planned Parenthood is using the language and imagery of nuclear weaponry to warn about threats to the filibuster strategy in the Senate.

Planned Parenthood said that "right-wing conservatives in Congress" have come up with "what's been dubbed the 'nuclear strategy,'" which would allow the presiding officer of the Senate, Vice President Dick Cheney, to declare filibusters unconstitutional for judicial nominations, if a majority of senators agreed.

"This potential course of action has been referred to as 'nuclear,' because it would be the political equivalent of a nuclear explosion," Planned Parenthood said.

Any senator can hold up a vote by filibustering — or prolonging a discussion indefinitely — unless 60 senators vote for cloture — an end to the filibuster and immediate vote on the issue at hand.

In a Jan. 17 statement, Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life said some senators "have made history in their obstruction of the constitutional process simply because (they) find the religious and ethical beliefs of some of the president's nominees unacceptable."

He vowed to make judicial nominations an election issue in 2006, and called for efforts "to restore the proper traditions of the Senate so that it may carry out its constitutional duties free of ideological captivity."

Although the issue of nominees to the Supreme Court remains moot until one of the justices decides to retire, Bush signaled his commitment to his choices for various federal judgeships late last year when Scott McClellan, presidential press secretary, announced that Bush would renominate 20 men and women who did not receive an up or down vote in the Senate during his first term.

In all, 204 of the 260 nominees submitted by Bush in his first term have been confirmed, according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy.

"The Senate has a constitutional obligation to vote up or down a president's judicial nominees and the president looks forward to working with the new Senate to ensure a well-functioning and independent judiciary," said McClellan.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Values of believers, nonbelievers in politics discussed in book, by panel

WASHINGTON — In his new book, "God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It," the Rev. Jim Wallis, editor of Sojourners magazine and founder of the Call to Renewal anti-poverty movement, argues that it is time for the religious values of a broader cross section of Americans to have a role in the public sphere.

His book begins with the observation that "many of us feel that our faith has been stolen, and it's time to take it back."

"How did the faith of Jesus come to be known as pro-rich, pro-war and only pro-American?" Rev. Wallis asks in the book. "What happened here? And how do we get back to a historic, biblical and genuinely evangelical faith rescued from

where the morals espoused by religion are taken into account in public policy but not simply on the basis of their connection to organized religion.

"Many people do draw their moral convictions from religion," Father Hehir said, "but many do not."

"I would structure debate always with morality as the mediating factor between religion and politics," he continued. The interests and claims of those who would impose their religious values on the country must be justified and translated in ways that "shows their value to those who don't share the religion."

Father Hehir gave the example of using religious justifications about war — "religious claims can be used both to set limits or to expand the reasons for waging war."

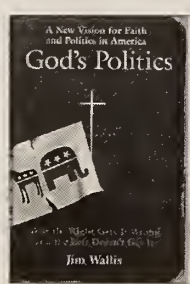
Rev. Wallis said the priest's proposal of using moral factors as a middle ground between those who are religious and those who are not "is exactly right."

"I don't believe religion has a monopoly on morality in a pluralistic society," Wallis said. "We can't allow that."

And in some ways, he said, religious people must be "disciplined by democracy. We can't say 'this must happen because I'm a Baptist and that's what we believe.'"

Rev. Wallis said the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose Jan. 15 birthday was commemorated with a federal holiday the day before the Brookings event, provided perhaps the best model for connecting one's religious beliefs with actions that could be understood to be moral by people of any or no religious beliefs.

When Rev. King spoke, Rev. Wallis said, "we knew who Isaiah was and who Jesus was, but he didn't exclude anyone in the process."



its contemporary distortions?"

At a Jan. 18 forum hosted in Washington on faith and politics, Rev. Wallis noted that a bumper sticker distributed by Sojourners during the past election read, "God is not a Republican ... or a Democrat."

"When either party tries to politicize God or co-opt religious communities for their political agendas, they make a terrible mistake," he said. "The best contribution of religion is precisely not to be ideologically predictable nor loyally partisan."

He said that God's politics are "never partisan or ideological. But it challenges everything about our politics," by reminding people of those neglected by politics — the poor, the vulnerable and others left behind.

"God's politics challenge narrow national, ethnic, economic or cultural self-interest, reminding us of a much wider world and the creative human diversity of all those made in the image of the Creator," said Rev. Wallis.

"God's politics remind us of the creation itself, a rich environment in which we are called to be good stewards, not mere users, consumers and exploiters," he said.

Father J. Bryan Hehir, secretary for social services in the Archdiocese of Boston and a professor at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, said that while he agrees with many points in Rev. Wallis's book he "would have gotten there a different way," and would be more parsimonious about how religion is factored into politics.

He proposed a middle ground,

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 6, 2005

Feb. 6, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 58:7-10
Psalm: 112:4-9
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Shining lights serve as beacons

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Nobody likes a showoff.

We may momentarily be amused when athletes or politicians crow about their successes, but the appeal of the braggart is short-lived. We know instinctively that such behavior belies a sense of entitlement, of being exempt from customary responsibilities of behavior and etiquette.

Maybe that's why Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus urges us to let our "light shine before others so they may see your good deeds and glorify the heavenly Father," makes many of us uncomfortable. Having been turned off by the spiritual showboating and self-promotion of

people who think they're more important than others, we don't want to succumb to the same temptation.

In fact, though, such false reticence can itself be a form of self-indulgence. For it is by our good works — including religious practices, of course, but also acts of charity and justice and honesty and compassion — that the Gospel becomes real for people.

In a quote made famous through the Internet (and often incorrectly attributed to Nelson Mandela), writer Marianne Williamson expresses the idea eloquently: "It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?"

"Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. ... We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

As the conversion season of Lent approaches, may we so embody Christ's call to generosity, humility and reconciliation in our relationships with others that his light shines forth in our daily lives.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday (St. John Bosco)**, Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (Presentation of the Lord)**, Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Thursday (St. Blasé, St. Ansgar)**, Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday**, Hebrews 13:1-8, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday**, Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6-12

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16; **Monday**, Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday**, Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)**, Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday after Ash Wednesday)**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Our Lady of Lourdes)**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

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TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

Catholic faith a constant for NFL quarterback Favre and his family

BY MARYANGELA ROMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BROOKFIELD, Wis. — As the mom of Green Bay Packers' No. 4, quarterback Brett Favre, Bonita Favre has been along for the ups and downs of her son's career on and off the football field.

From Super Bowl appearances, MVP awards and record-shattering performances to the sudden death four days before Christmas last year of Irvin Favre, her husband of 38 years and Brett's father, the family has gone from triumphs to tragedies.

In October, more misfortune struck the Green Bay Packer legend's family. Casey Tynes, 24, the brother of Brett's wife, Deanna, was killed in an all-terrain vehicle accident on the Favres' Mississippi property and a week later Deanna learned she has breast cancer, for which she is now undergoing treatment.

Through it all, however, the Favre family's Catholic faith has been a steady constant, their main strength, said Bonita Favre.

"The main strength of all of us is our faith," she said. "Without God, we have nothing and with him anything's possible."

Bonita Favre is promoting her new book, "Favre," co-written with her son and *Green Bay Press-Gazette* sports col-

umnist Chris Havel. The book is filled with photos and includes a DVD of personal and professional highlights.

Raised a Catholic, Bonita Favre said she attended an all-girls Catholic high school in Mississippi. Thirteen members of her graduating class of 33 entered the convent. One of those young women was Bonita's best friend, Patricia Ladner, who has been a Sister of Mercy for seven years.

Now a member of the state board of nursing in Louisiana and author of college textbooks on nursing, Sister Ladner is also Brett's godmother.

Bonita Favre called Sister Ladner her strength through the trials of her life. Her friend reminds her to "never give up, read that Bible every morning, say your prayers."

She admitted that she sometimes wonders why God has allowed so much grief to happen to her family, "but then I know a lot of other people (face tragedy, too) but theirs isn't public. With all the things that have happened to us in the last year, there are probably people right down the street that it's happening to. It's just ours was public knowledge."

Like her daughter-in-law, Deanna, Bonita Favre said she is also a strong believer that things happen for a reason.

"Even with Deanna's situation, she

Coaching values and sports



CNS PHOTO FROM PARAMOUNT

Samuel L. Jackson stars in "Coach Carter," a formulaic but interesting story of real-life basketball coach who accepts a job at a high school with the stipulation that all the players sign contracts agreeing to uphold academic standards, and when some of them don't, he grounds the entire team. The film is reasonably absorbing, and although parents may consider it important for inner-city kids to see this inspiring story, be warned that there's a good deal of crude language and an abortion subplot with questionable moral implications. Much crude language, drug dealing, some violence, abortion, suggestive dancing and sexual situations. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

feels that God has given her this cancer for a reason," she explained. "They say everything happens for a reason and sometimes it's hard to understand, but I think that I've found that even from adversity there's usually something good that develops from it."

In fact, she pointed to the Packers' game against the Oakland Raiders, a day after Irvin's death, as her favorite football memory. In front of a national audience, Brett threw for four touchdown passes, completing 22 of 30 passes for 399 yards en route to a 41-7 Packers' victory.

"There were just so many emotions that night," said Bonita Favre of the game.

The compassionate reception from Raider fans, whose reputation is far from affectionate, was also heartwarming, she added.

Bonita Favre has channeled some of her grief from the past year into the book project begun in March. For her second oldest son, Brett, however, the grieving process has been different.

"He has his own way of grieving," she explained.

Watching her son cope with Deanna Favre's diagnosis has also been difficult, said Bonita Favre, noting they share a feeling of helplessness.

When tragedy strikes, the Favre family is supported by the Catholic community and retired Bishop William R. Houck of Biloxi, Miss., who "is like a personal family friend," said Bonita Favre.

She also pointed to Deanna as a source of strength for the family. "She's definitely Brett's strength."

A former special education teacher, Bonita Favre said she is equally proud of all four of her children — there are no favorites. But she is especially proud Brett came public and conquered his drug addiction.

"He went through rehab and to go public with that and state that he would beat it and he did, that's a proud moment," she said. "If Brett tells you he's going to do something, you better pretty well believe it."

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Mad science



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem have their imaginations sparked Jan. 6 by Joel Steindel, the "Mad Scientist." Steindel recently bought the franchise rights to Mad Science Group, which provides entertainment at schools and other events using science experiments. Our Lady of Mercy School offers an after-school science club sponsored by Mad Science.

High Point student navigates toward state competition

HIGH POINT — Jackson Sams, an eighth-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee Jan. 14.

On Jan. 18, he completed the required written test with hopes of competing against public and private school students for North Carolina's state title. The top 100 scorers on the test are eligible to compete in the state competition April 1.

State winners then compete nationally for a \$25,000 college scholarship from the National Geographic Society.

The national competition, to be held in Washington, D.C. May 24-25, will be televised on the National Geographic Channel.

As part of the school bee, Immaculate Heart of Mary School sixth-through seventh-graders spent several days in early January answering oral questions about geography, world customs, cultures and politics.

Winners from the three grades then endured seven rounds of additional questions to determine the school's final four contestants: Jackson, Michael Herschel, Edward Kageorge and Kelsey Rochford.



Jackson Sams

Jackson and Michael survived to the school's championship round Jan. 14, in which they fought a single elimination battle for another four rounds until Jackson answered the winning question.

The National Geographic Bee, an educational program of the National Geographic Society, is a nationwide geography competition for U.S. schools with grades four through eight, designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography.

Students take 'stock' in contest

HIGH POINT — A team of four students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point recently placed 59th among more than 220 teams in a state-wide public and private school Stock Market Simulation Competition.

Eighth-graders Ryan Kordsmeier, Garrett McAuliffe, Emily Sickelbaugh and Brittney Spear made a "profit" of more than \$7,500 in "playing" the stock market from October through December.

Teams were given \$100,000 each in pretend money to buy and sell stocks. Whichever team made the most money in the market won a dinner in

Raleigh as guests of the North Carolina Council on Economic Education, sponsor of the competition.

Jim Lindquist, Immaculate Heart of Mary's middle school math teacher, said the students used various media to research companies and stocks, monitor the economy and access stock prices. Students also wrote essays after the contest about what they learned about the stock market.

This year, as in past years, Lindquist said his students were most surprised about how you can still make a profit buying stocks in a down market and then "selling short."

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FROM THE COVER

Christians in Iraq still afraid, despite reassurances

IRAQ, from page 1

the reigning chaos have altered life for everyone.

"Christians live like all people in Iraq, they have the same worries," said Archbishop Fernando Filoni, the apostolic nuncio to Iraq.

"But given these attacks, Christians are even more worried; it's understandable the church finds itself in double the difficulty," he said Jan. 18 between meetings with Vatican officials.

Unwanted connections

The added difficulty comes when certain fundamentalist groups see the church as a symbol or reflection of the Western world or when they assume church members are collaborators with the U.S.-led occupying forces.

Syrian-rite Archbishop Basile Georges Casmoussa of Mosul, Iraq, said Jan. 18 that Christians feel unsafe because "the U.S. soldiers deployed in various parts of the country, and whom the local inhabitants see as occupants, have helped create a negative image of Christianity among people of other faiths."

But confusing the church in Iraq as being an arm of the West "is very offensive, especially to the Chaldeans," said Msgr. Robert L. Stern, secretary-general of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

Chaldean Catholics, who make up the majority of Iraq's Christians, "resent the idea they are being identified as Western because they are original inhabitants" in Iraq, dating back to "before the time of Mohammed and the coming of Islam," Msgr. Stern said Jan. 21 in Rome.

Anti-Christian campaign

But not everyone interprets the violence against Christians and their churches as being just part of the general chaos or as a confused sense of the enemy.

Dominican Father Mikhael Najib told Vatican Radio from Iraq Jan. 18 that "there is a true campaign under way

against Christians."

He said religious, priests and lay Christians in Mosul have faced numerous threats that have escalated in number and intensity as the Jan. 30 date for scheduled elections in Iraq neared.

Mosul, in northern Iraq, is home to many Kurds and pro-Syrian groups.

Certain Muslim factions were apparently threatening Christians as a way to pressure them "to not align themselves with either the pro-Syrian (groups) or the Kurds," Father Najib said.

To vote or not

Most Catholic leaders in Iraq and especially the Vatican want the Jan. 30 elections for a transitional National Assembly to go ahead as scheduled.

Archbishop Casmoussa told Vatican Radio he did not think this was "the right moment" for elections given the climate of insecurity. He spoke after unidentified Iraqis released him less than 24 hours after kidnapping him Jan. 17.

But Archbishop Filoni said the vote "will be carried out," even though it will not be held "in a normal situation."

Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said violence will prevent pockets of Iraqis from voting.

Whether the poll results should be considered valid if large numbers of people do not vote "will need to be seen according to how (the voting process) is carried out," Archbishop Filoni said.

Latin-rite Archbishop Jean Sleiman of Baghdad said Jan. 17 that a substantial number of Christians are "going on vacation" over the election period, "so they have an excuse" not to vote.

Casting a vote is dangerous for the Christian community, he said.

"If they vote, the others will retaliate, but if they don't vote, they will be losing something, too," he said.

One informed Vatican official said the legitimacy of the January elections should be called into question if entire groups sit it out.

"Even in the U.S., 100 percent of the voters don't go to vote. But for example, if all Hispanics or African-Americans decided not to vote, would that simply be an 'imperfect' election? This is the problem," said the official.

Vying for control

More than 62 percent of Iraq's population is Shiite Muslim, while 34 percent is Sunni Muslim, a different branch of Islam.

Under Saddam, power was generally in the hands of the Sunni minority, while Shiite institutions were under strict control, and the mostly Sunni Kurds in the North were persecuted in their drive for autonomy.

A political struggle between Sunni and Shiite groups after elections could pose a real threat to Christians, Archbishop Sleiman said.

"The real danger is in the division. If the Sunni don't share in elections, it will be sure to cause problems," he said.

Sunnis "have to be more realistic. They have to share power; they cannot have it again like before," he said.

Whether elections will lead toward a stable interim government or "worst-case scenario, a civil war," Msgr. Stern said, the church and Catholic donor agencies will continue their work in Iraq.

"I don't envisage any scenario that would totally block the church," he said.

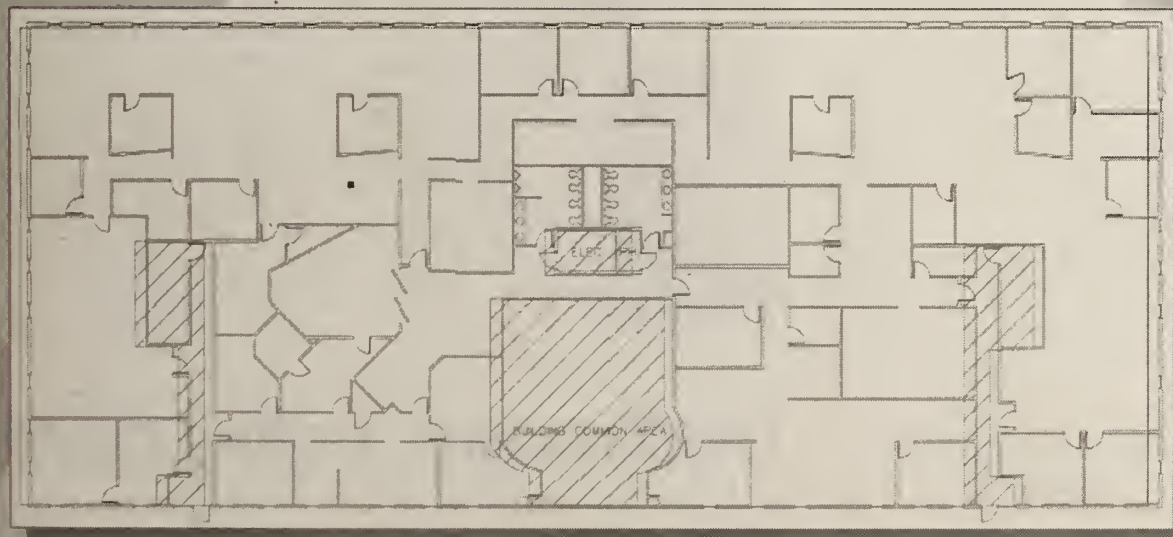
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Leave the cell phone in the car, participate in the Mass

Focus should be on God, nothing else

Cell phones! They are so annoying. For countless ages from Adam and Eve to the early 1990s, human beings managed to exist in various conditions of peril, demand and activity without being in constant telephonic contact with one another. So why in the world does everybody from CEOs to teenagers have to be constantly yak, yak, yakking about everything and nothing?

Recently I came back from a trip. In an airport these days, you would think that you have suddenly been transported to a giant mental hospital, a traveling Bedlam. People sit on benches and in snack bars talking into tiny microphones concealed on their persons, but they look like so many schizophrenics talking to themselves.

When the plane lands people make the obligatory three phone calls: One is to say, "Yeah, I've just landed in Atlanta" or wherever; the second, as they wait for their bags, is to say, "Now we are waiting for the bags"; the third call is, "Now I'm going to the car, I'll call you from the car."

Does life really need such play-by-play commentary?

Recently I got off the subway in New York. Coming toward me on the sidewalk was a phalanx of people. Every single one of them was talking to somebody, hand-to-ear or just babbling in the air. These were not the homeless. These were the "connected."

The train going up to New York had a "quiet car" where you were not supposed to talk on the phone. I took refuge there. No sooner was I settled in the seat, contemplating freedom from someone's dinner plans or business affairs, when the phone rang for the woman across the aisle. I shot her a withering gaze.

"My boyfriend," she said, pointing to the phone.

"I don't care," I said, pointing to the "Quiet Car" sign.

In church these phones are most annoying. Why do most people even bring them to church? The whole idea of prayer, whether communal or private, is that we put other things aside to lift our hearts and minds to God.

Last Good Friday one woman got no fewer than three phone calls in the middle of the service of the passion of our Lord.

Like many parishes these days, our church has a sign at the entrance telling people to turn off their cell phones. But people often forget. Phones ring, often at the bottom of some giant suitcase that passes for a purse. It takes a minute to find them.

Parish Diary

FATHER
PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



I have a better solution. Leave the cell phone in the car. You don't need it. Some things are more important than your phone call. Church is one of them.

Of course, some people, such as doctors, emergency medical workers, police officers and firefighters have to be on call. They can put the phone on "vibrate" mode and go outside to answer when summoned.

The rest of us should pay attention to the Mass.

People and priest celebrate the Mass together. The congregation would not want the Mass interrupted by the priest stopping to answer his phone in the middle of the eucharistic prayer or homily. Likewise, their "full and active" participation means no phones.

There's a spiritual principle here. We need to be fully present to God and to each other. We cannot always be thinking that something else, somewhere else is always more important than the person we are with and the situation we are in.

Most of these calls can wait. Hang up the phone, and live life in the here and now. Please God.

The writing on the wall of water

Did God have a role in the disaster?

The Dec. 26 tsunami was more a "wall of water" than a wave. Is there any writing waiting to be read on that wall?

It hit 12 different countries, killed more than 160,000 people, left more than 2 million homeless and destroyed property to an extent never seen before. It also raises in the minds of many this question: How could an all-powerful, wise and loving God let something like this happen?

Is God sending a message to the world in the harsh language of this disaster?

I don't pretend to be able to answer that question, but it has been on my mind. Letting it slip out here into print might clarify some issues, but it can also confuse a believing mind. Doubt does not disqualify anyone from the community of believers, but in the face of the greatest natural disaster we've ever seen I find myself repeating the words the father of the possessed boy spoke to Jesus in Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief."

Was God there when disaster struck?

God is everywhere. So, yes, God was there when the fateful waters rolled.

Did God cause this disaster to happen?

No.

Why, then, didn't God prevent it from happening?

Who can say? Who knows the mind of God?

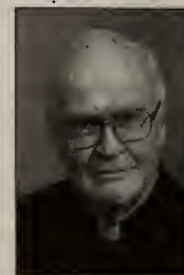
Is God trying to tell us something? Maybe.

The message, faith assures us, surely would be one of love. Love for the victims, who, our faith would want to persuade us, somehow were swept with baptismal force into the arms of a waiting, welcoming Creator. Love also for the rest of us survivors worldwide, who in response to God's love can now show ourselves to possess a faith, hope and love strong enough to sustain the generosity, resourcefulness and commitment needed to rebuild South Asia.

We can work for a safer future by taking steps to provide a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean similar to that now available

Looking Around

FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST



in the Pacific Ocean.

Those of us on my side of the globe can begin thinking of ourselves more frequently and consistently as global citizens with responsibilities toward those on the other side of the world with whom we share the same human nature. We might now be more inclined to share our wealth and technology without diluting culture here or there, and certainly without dominating those who are down.

We will, I suspect, dutifully pay our respects to the distinction between the positive and permissive wills of God, acknowledging that God did not strike, a natural disaster did.

Why and to what purpose, then, did God, the Creator of all things natural, permit it?

I can't say and don't know anyone who can.

Depending on the quality and quantity of our response worldwide, we might come to see ourselves as somehow better off for the experience: larger of heart, more fully human, participants in a consciousness of human solidarity never known before.

But the evidence for that will have to be measurable. It will have to become visible in terms of peace, justice, economic development and love for one another.

There is now so much evidence to the contrary in our world that hope is strained and faith is stretched.

St. Basil the Great said, "Sin is the misuse of powers given us by God for doing good." How we use our power now has something to say about the prospects for our own salvation.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Confirmation before marriage

Q. Is the sacrament of confirmation necessary before one can be married in the Catholic Church? (Ohio)

A. Catholics who are not yet confirmed should receive that sacrament before they are married if it can be done without serious inconvenience. (Canon 1065).

However, it is not advisable to rush into confirmation simply to get it done before marriage. Before receiving confirmation lawfully, one should be properly instructed and prepared for the sacrament (Canon 889), even if that means delaying it until after one is married.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

The politics of abortion

Catholics must 'turn up the heat' to make changes

In the late 1980s while working as special assistant for public policy in an East Coast diocesan Catholic Charities office, I experienced a "baptism of fire" in the politics of abortion.

During that time I worked with a small but dedicated group of pro-life advocates to pass state legislation requiring parental or guardian permission before a minor girl could receive an abortion.

Because minors usually need parental/guardian permission just to get their ears pierced, one would think that passing a law requiring similar permission for a surgical abortion would be a breeze. Not so. In the struggle to protect unborn babies, minors and parental rights, common sense was out.

To counter the powerful campaign propagated by Planned Parenthood and the city's leading newspaper, our little force fought back with a campaign of truth. We contacted all the Catholic pastors, asking them to encourage their parishioners to get actively involved. We prayed. We wrote articles. We met with every legislator.

And we flew in from Chicago a constitutional attorney who represented Americans United for Life to testify before the entire state Legislature.

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



We should have won, but we lost. We lost because of Catholic apathy. The overwhelming majority of clergy and laity just didn't care much. Many legislators told me they were not hearing much from constituents who favored the bill.

Until the consciences of millions of American Catholics are aroused to the point of passionate action, 4,000 unborn babies will continue to be murdered brutally through abortion every day. Parental rights will be weakened, and vulnerable women will be harmed — physically, emotionally and spiritually — through the lie of abortion.

Politics is a rough game, especially when it comes to highly divisive issues like abortion. Way back in the '80s, I learned that most politicians do not see the light until they feel the heat.

There's no getting around it: We have got to turn up the heat!

Stay in touch with your state Catholic conference. Learn about the pro-life bills they are promoting. And regularly write, e-mail or call your state legislators urging their full support.

I recently spoke with Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of pro-life activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to find out what legislation is likely to be introduced this session of Congress. He said the "Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act," if passed, would require abortion providers to inform women seeking an abortion that an unborn child of 20 weeks — and possibly younger — feels pain when hurt. And that anesthesia could be given to the child before the abortion.

Doerflinger also mentioned the "Child Custody Protection Act." This bill would make it illegal for adults to transport minor girls across state lines for an abortion in an effort to avoid home state protective laws.

Please contact your two U.S. senators and congressperson, urging them to support the above federal legislation actively. And don't forget the president! After his recent re-election, George Bush said he had earned a lot of "political capital," and that he intended to use it.

Let's turn up the heat on him as well, and insist that he spend a significant amount of that capital on the unborn. (The White House comment desk's phone: 202-456-1111; fax: 202-456-2461).

Repeated call to be saved shows trust in God, pope says at audience

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



Even in misery, we can count on the Lord, says pope

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The prayer, "O Lord, save me," repeated in the Psalms, in the New Testament and in the lives of modern believers is an acknowledgment that God is the only one who can save people, Pope John Paul II said.

"Authentic trust always sees God as love, even if at times we find it difficult to understand fully his actions," the pope said Jan. 26 at his weekly general audience.

During the gathering in the Vatican audience hall, Pope John Paul looked at the "deadly nightmare" described in Psalm 116 and in the psalmist's praise for God who heard him and saved him.

In the psalm, "the image is that of a prey caught in the trap of an inescapable hunter," the pope said. Risking death, the psalmist also experiences "psychological pain" and says, "I fell into distress and sorrow."

"But from that tragic abyss a cry was launched toward the only one who could extend a hand and snatch the anguished supplicant from that inextricable tangle," the pope said.

The psalmist cried, "O Lord, save me," and the Lord, "invoked with faith, extended his hand, cut the ropes that bound the supplicant, dried the tears in his eyes and stopped his precipitous slide into the hellish abyss," the pope said.

The psalmist "returns to the land of the living," praising God for his loving tenderness, he said.

The pope said the psalm reminds believers that "in misery and abandonment one can always count on the Lord, the father of orphans and the defender of widows."

A sad day each year

The March for Life is a strange combination of sorrow and joy

The sorrow comes because we commemorate a Supreme Court decision that, although it lacks all authentic validity, continues to allow the destruction of more than a million children a year. Yet the joy comes because we gather with thousands of other pro-life activists, proudly taking part in the greatest human rights cause of our day, and we know that our cause will prevail.

While it is important to march, we should also understand that the March for Life is, at its core, an educational effort about the "Life Principles." Miss Nellie Gray, founder and president of March for Life, has always stressed this point and I want to re-echo it.

The Life Principles express, in a succinct way, the absolute inviolability of every physical human life, and the fact that such a life has a right to protection regardless of the circumstances of its conception. The Life Principles are about equality — the equality of the born with the unborn, the healthy with the sick, the strong with the weak, the adult with the embryo.

One of the Life Principles states, "The life of each human being shall be preserved and protected from that human being's biological beginning when

Guest Column

FATHER
FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



the father's sperm fertilizes the mother's ovum."

This formulation protects us from the linguistic tricks some play when they re-define "conception" or speak in abstract terms about their philosophy of when a human being becomes a person. The fact is that every biological, living human being is a human person.

The March for Life, as an educational effort, has a theme every year, and this year's theme emphasized that it is the duty of each American to uphold the Life Principles without exception or compromise.

Our duty to these children is absolute and admits no exceptions. Although it is legitimate to work step

by step, incrementally, toward the protection of every life, it is equally necessary to clearly and frequently articulate where we want to go: to the protection of every life, without exception. The children conceived in rape and incest must have equal protection. The children of mothers with medically complicated pregnancies must have equal protection.

In an excellent analysis of the legitimacy of the incremental approach, Angel Rodriguez Luno, professor of moral theology at Rome's Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, wrote, "the absolute personal opposition to abortion on the part of the lawmaker [must be made] known to all, thus preventing any confusion or scandal." Leaders in the pro-life movement must, with even greater reason, avoid the scandal that can unintentionally arise if people think that we are granting moral legitimacy to even a single abortion.

We are not; we never can. The sad commemoration that comes every January is a good time to reaffirm that fact.

Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.

WARNING BEFORE THE WAVES

Indian bishop says earthquake before tsunamis was 'God's alarm'

BY ANTO AKKARA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PORT BLAIR, India — The powerful Indian Ocean earthquake that preceded the tsunamis was "God's alarm," said Bishop Aleixo das Neves Dias of Port Blair, which encompasses India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands where more than 7,500 people were believed to have died.

"God has mysterious ways of communicating with his people. I feel that the earthquake was God's alarm," Bishop Dias told Catholic News Service in a Jan. 22 interview.

Most of the islanders who escaped the gigantic waves that flooded the flat islands "were alerted by the earthquake," the bishop said.

Bishop Dias visited the Triad-area of the Diocese of Charlotte in August 2004 as part of a missionary trip.

"We were getting ready to go to church (Dec. 26) when the earthquake began," recounted Rajini Tirkey, a Catholic housewife from Campbell Bay, near the southernmost tip of the Andaman Islands.

"Soon there were craters all around, and water started flushing out like fountains," said told CNS when she came to meet Bishop Dias and collect rosaries for her children.

Sensing danger, the men kept watching the sea while the women and children from Catholic families in the village got together to pray.

"When they saw the huge waves coming, they shouted, and all of us ran to the jungle," recalled Tirkey.

Though she and her three children, ages 6 to 11, were submerged when the waves overtook them twice, Tirkey said

they were lucky to survive.

But, when the water receded after four days, 28 bodies that could not be identified were found; other members of the village's 50 families were missing.

Tirkey said her house "has become sea. You can go and fish there now."

"Besides our houses, there is no trace of our church, too," added Tirkey, who was airlifted by the Indian Air Force to Port Blair a week after the disaster.

Some other Campbell Bay residents — like M. John, his wife and seven children — live in a relief camp at a Catholic school in Port Blair.

"It is God's blessing we are alive today. Had the earthquake not been there, we would have rushed out of the houses, and the sea would have swallowed us," said John, a government contractor who said the tsunamis had left him a pauper.

John's house disappeared into the sea, while the 4,000 coconut trees in his 14-acre grove are submerged in seawater and soon will decay.

"We are penniless now. We do not know what to do next," said John, while his wife left to collect clothing for their children from the bishop's office.

John and his wife hoped to get Bishop Dias' help: John's name was missing in the government list of refugees, although the family had lived in the camp for three weeks.

Inside the camp, John spends the day reading newspapers and meeting every government official who visits. He is eager to find out the government's compensation and rehabilitation plans for the tsunami victims.

He said that following a powerful 1982 earthquake the government did not keep its promise to compensate the islanders.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Missionaries of Charity clean up around homes damaged by the tsunami in Kanniyakumari, located on the most southern tip of India, Jan. 7. The World Health Organization said in early January that the 226,000 death toll from the earthquake-triggered tsunamis could rise if groups can't help stem the spread of dysentery and cholera.

"The fact that the government is not even prepared to admit the actual casualty figures makes me suspect the (government) promises," added John, who migrated to the island from India's southern Kerala state three decades ago.

Andaman and Nicobar is an archipelago of 550 islands spread more than 500 miles from north to south in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. Only 40 of the islands are inhabited.

Christians account for 23 percent of the 350,000 people of the remote islands, the closest of which is less than 200 miles from Indonesia's Sumatra island.

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HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Were you or someone you know in Asia immediately before, during or after the Dec. 26 tsunamis? What are you and your family, parish or school doing to help the victims? Are you willing to share your story with *The Catholic News & Herald*? If so, please contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass,
Part 6; Pope: attending
Sunday Mass is essential
to Christian living

| PAGE 7

VOLUME 14 N° 18

At Gemelli Hospital, a forest of tripods, antennae and well-wishers

POPE RETURNS TO HOSPITAL
FOR SEVENTH TIME IN 26 YEARS

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

ROME — As soon as news of Pope John Paul II's hospitalization spread beyond Vatican City, journalists based in Rome flocked to Gemelli Hospital to cover the story.

What looked like a forest of camera tripods and satellite antennae quickly sprouted up outside the Rome hospital Feb. 2.

Well-wishers and pilgrims added to the media crowd, with all eyes and lenses focused on the 10th floor, where the pope has his own private room.

Only Vatican officials and Rome VIPs were allowed access to the hospital's upper levels to relay their wishes for the pope's full recovery from respiratory complications from the flu.

See POPE, page 6

Voting in freedom for the first time

Iraqi church officials laud country's election

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Every Iraqi who cast a vote on Jan. 30 amid continued chaos and violence showed that democracy will win over terrorism, said a top Iraqi church official.

"This is a big lesson to terrorism, a great message that says we are not afraid" of terrorists and "we will rebuild our country," said Father Philip Najim, the Rome-based representative of the Chaldean-rite Baghdad Patriarchate.

The greater-than-expected voter turnout is "a positive sign" as it marks a turning point in Iraq's future, he said.

"It shows the whole world how educated the Iraqi people are and that we are capable of reaching freedom and democracy," the Iraqi-born priest told Catholic News Service Jan. 31.

See IRAQ, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Ramen Amma, 10, an Assyrian Catholic from Des Plaines, Ill., waves the Assyrian and American flags in celebration Jan. 30 outside the polling station in Skokie, Ill., near Chicago, on the last day of the out-of-country voting period for the Iraqi election. More than 20,000 Iraqis cast votes at polls in five U.S. cities Jan. 28-30, according to polling officials.



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE FORD

Catholic Schools Week

Students and their teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte review their work in this 2003 photograph. Catholic Schools Week, this year themed "Faith in Every Student," runs Jan. 30-Feb. 5. Look for expanded coverage in the next issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

UNCOMMON GROUNDS

Parishioners opt for coffee with a difference

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — A new social justice initiative is brewing in western North Carolina. Fair Trade coffee is on the menu at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville.

St. William parishioners dipped into Fair Trade coffee,

lining up after Mass Jan. 9 to sample the product and to buy more than \$500 worth of it. St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches will continue to sell the coffee, as well as use it in church functions.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) says that "Fair Trade is a trading partnership ... that

See COFFEE, page 5

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Feminists for Life

Speaker to bring unique anti-abortion message to diocese

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Perspectives

Communion for Celiac sufferers; familiar words, different results

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Parish Profile

St. Margaret Mary Church — a thriving parish in Swannanoa

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

STANDING WATCH



CNS PHOTO BY DAN HORAN

Hoinging Chang, of Toronto, holds up a candle in prayer during a Nov. 21, 2004 protest against the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga. Maryknoll Sister Leila Mattingly, 63, was sentenced Jan. 25 to six months in prison for stepping onto the property during the November demonstration.

Maryknoll nun prepares for prison stay after SOA trespass conviction

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Maryknoll Sister Leila Mattingly is going to jail. She just does not know precisely when. But when she does go, it will be for six months.

Sister Mattingly, 63, was sentenced Jan. 25 to six months in prison following her misdemeanor trespassing conviction for stepping over the property line during a 16,000-strong protest in November 2004 at Fort Benning, Ga., home to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, once known as the School of the Americas.

The institute is a training facility for foreign military personnel. For the past 14 years, it has been the site of annual protests by demonstrators who link its graduates to human rights abuses committed over the past two decades by government security forces in Latin America.

According to the U.S. government, only a small number of those who have attended the institute were ever involved in criminal activities.

"I believe that I followed my conscience and my sense of moral outrage by prayerfully and peacefully protesting," Sister Mattingly said at her sentencing hearing in Columbus, Ga.

"I crossed the line because of what the school teaches, what many of its students have done, and what it represents in the madness of military rationale that might makes right," she told U.S. Magis-

trate G. Mallon Faircloth, judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

Sister Mattingly was the oldest woman, and the only woman religious, among the 14 people charged for civil disobedience during the Nov. 20-21, 2004 protests. She and Alice Gerard of Buffalo, N.Y., received the longest prison sentences.

According to School of the Americas Watch, more than 170 people have received prison time totaling more than 75 years for their actions at protests over the past decade.

In 1971, Sister Mattingly was assigned to a Maryknoll mission in Bolivia soon after a coup by Gen. Hugo Banzer Suarez.

"His military chased, grabbed, shot, killed, imprisoned and tortured thousands during his seven years of dictatorship," Sister Mattingly said.

SOA visitors, she added, "may have seen Gen. Suarez's picture there in its hall of fame! Can you imagine what an insult that is to the beautiful people of Bolivia who suffered terribly under his tyrannical regime?"

Sister Mattingly was to receive a letter from the Bureau of Prisons notifying her of the prison to which she must report and the date when her sentence begins. Protesters sentenced in the past have received the notice anywhere from six to 12 weeks after their trials.

Court declines to hear case that rejected 'Choose Life' auto plates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Jan. 24 declined to hear a case over whether states can offer license plates with anti-abortion slogans.

Without comment, the court declined to take an appeal of a ruling that said South Carolina's program offering pro-life license plates was unconstitutional. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had said it was unconstitutional for the state to offer plates with the saying "Choose Life" because supporters of legal abortion were not given the chance to have a license plate expressing a different view.

Planned Parenthood of South Carolina said in a lawsuit that the state had engaged in "viewpoint discrimination" because the program allowed only one side of the debate about abortion to have access to the license plate forum.

Under a 2001 law, South Carolina began offering specialty plates for additional fees of up to \$70.

The 4th Circuit is not the only federal

appeals court to have taken up a case over "Choose Life" plates. The 5th Circuit Court said in 2002 that supporters of legal abortion had no legal standing to sue over Louisiana's "Choose Life" plates.

In material filed with its case, South Carolina said 11 other states offer "Choose Life" plates and 11 other states are considering them.

U.S. observance of World Day for Consecrated Life set for Feb. 6

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life will be held Sunday, Feb. 6, across the nation.

The Vatican-sponsored event, instituted in 1997 to pay tribute to religious men and women around the world, was observed in Rome Feb. 2.

According to Vatican statistics, the number of men and women members of religious orders totals about 986,000.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — As the 40th anniversary of the closing of *Vatican Council II* approaches, many Catholics are still unaware of the importance of this ecumenical council. Msgr. John McSweeney will be giving several presentations on what Vatican II really was and its importance to the Church. All sessions will meet in the New Life Center, room 102, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The program meets Mondays, Feb. 7 and 28; March 7 and 21; and April 4 from 7-8:15 p.m. or Tuesdays, Feb. 8, March 1, 8 and 22; and April 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Childcare is available by reservation at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — *Catholics Returning Home*, a program for non-practicing or part-time Catholics, will be offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., through Feb. 22. Topics will include The Catholic Church Today — Changes Since Vatican II; The Creed — What Catholics Believe; The Mass — Walk Through & Explanations; Confession/Reconciliation; and Catholic Spirituality (Scripted vs. Charismatic Prayer). All meetings will include a question-and-answer session. For more information, contact Ed Powers at (704) 553-7273.

CHARLOTTE — For the monthly meeting of the Society of Mary and Martha, Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate *Mass for Women of the Diocese* Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., together with the Knights of

Columbus Council 7343 and the Red Cross, are sponsoring a *Blood Drive* in the parish hall Feb. 13, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. A driver's license is required for proper I.D. Please contact Dan O'Sullivan at (704) 573-3859 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Larry DeWalt of Hospice of Charlotte will present "*Children and Grief*" Feb. 16, 6:30-8 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. All are invited to learn how death impacts children. Topics covered will be how children understand death at different ages, how children grieve, the ways parents can help children heal after a loss and what children want to hear. For more information, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 704-364-5431 ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo* of Charlotte School of Leaders meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A *Lenten Supper-Study Series* will take place in the Kovacic Center at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Wednesdays, Feb. 16 and 23, March 2 and 9. A shared meal begins at 6 p.m., and catechesis begins at 6:45 p.m. The theme this season is "The Eucharist as Sacrament, as Devotion, as Uniter/Divider and as Way of Life." Free and open to all — no fees or pre-registration necessary. Please call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

SHELBY — Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin

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FROM THE VATICAN

New Vatican yearbook shows growth of church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II took a rare sick day, he was given a thick tome to thumb through: the first copy of the 2005 "Annuario Pontificio," the Vatican yearbook.

The book was delivered to the pope Jan. 31, a day the pope suspended his appointments because of the flu, said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman.

Initial figures from the book compiled by the Vatican's statistics office contained some good news:

— The world's Catholic population grew from 1.07 billion in 2002 to 1.08 billion in 2003.

— The number of Catholics in Africa grew by 4.5 percent; in Asia by 2.2 percent; in Oceania by 1.3 percent; in North and South America by

1.2 percent. Europe reported "a situation of practical stability."

— 49.8 percent of the world's Catholics live in North and South America.

— An increase in the number of diocesan priests led to an increase in the overall number of priests in the world, despite the fact that religious orders of men reported fewer ordained members.

— The total number of priests grew from 405,058 in 2002 to 405,450 in 2003. There were 707 more diocesan priests, while there were 315 fewer religious order priests.

— The pope named 171 bishops in 2004. He established 10 new dioceses and one new apostolic vicariate. Six dioceses became archdioceses.

will present a retreat for Knights of Columbus and their spouse entitled, "A Personal Relationship with Jesus." The retreat will take place Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 818 McGowan Rd. For more information, call (704) 487-7697.

GASTONIA — Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church will sponsor a *Prayer Vigil for Peace* at the Islamic Society of Gastonia, 4020 Titman Rd., Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Peace begins with prayer. Please dress modestly for the Vigil — no shorts or short skirts. For details, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Do you long for healing in your life? Healing from loss, grief, crisis, loneliness or any other sufferings? Learn how suffering can be a source of grace in your life and the lives of others. Loretta Bedner, regional director of the deSales Spirituality Center, will present "Healing Our Deepest Wounds" Feb. 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St. A Spanish presentation is also available. Seating is limited. To reserve your space, request the Spanish presentation, or reserve childcare, please call Larry Kwan at (336) 882-7204 or Jane Hughes at (336) 882-3393.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will present its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat* at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by coffee and light refreshments. The retreat dates are Thursdays, Feb. 17 and 24 and March 3, 10 and 17. This is an opportunity for all of us to do something extra during Lent. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — A Black History Celebration will be held at St. Mary Church in Greensboro Feb. 26 and 27. Entitled "Moving on: Embracing the Future," the event will feature guest speakers Fathers Chester Smith and Charles Smith. Workshops for high school and college students will be offered Feb. 26, 12-5 p.m. Gospel Mass and dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26 and Mass will be celebrated Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. For details, call MaryAnn Coleman at (336) 272-8650.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Bishop Emeritus William G.

Curlin will present a retreat for Knights of Columbus and their spouse entitled, "A Personal Relationship with Jesus." The retreat will take place Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will begin Feb. 20. Classes will meet for 90 minutes once a month for four consecutive months. Please call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

The Vatican yearbook generally goes on sale in late February. The complete data included in the book's listing for each diocese in the world usually are released months later in the Vatican's Statistical Yearbook.

Vatican praises woman who refused cancer treatment to save child

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican praised an Italian woman who sacrificed her life for her unborn child, calling it an act of "love and faith."

A 41-year-old woman from northern Italy died Jan. 24 from skin cancer, just three months after giving birth to a healthy baby boy.

Soon after Rita Fedrizzi was diagnosed with melanoma last year, she discovered she was pregnant. She refused doctors' recommendations to abort the fetus and to undergo treatment that would have been harmful to her unborn child.

The Vatican newspaper,

L'Osservatore Romano, headlined its Jan. 26 story about Fedrizzi "A gesture of love and faith in order to let life win."

The decision to forgo treatment knowing she would most likely die as a result was not made without "a heavy heart" or with "superficiality," said the paper.

"She informed herself ... and she knew clearly that if she were to give birth she would not have had any hope of surviving" the disease, it said.

The woman's husband, Enrico Fontana, said his wife had told the doctors that carrying out an abortion would have been like "killing one of my other two children to save my skin."

Fedrizzi made "a choice based on her faith, which I always shared with her," Fontana said.

The Vatican paper called her sacrifice "a courageous gesture."

The article recalled "another act of courage and love toward life" with the example of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, also from northern Italy.

St. Gianna died in 1962 after refusing treatment for a tumor so that she could carry her unborn child to term. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1994 and proclaimed her a saint May 16, 2004.

Wings of peace



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II looks at one of two white doves released by children from the window of his private apartment at the Vatican Jan. 30. During an annual appeal for peace, the pontiff prayed that the younger generations would become "courageous and tenacious constructors of peace." The pope enjoyed a laugh with the children when he tried to release the doves because they just settled on the window sill. When he picked one up to launch it into the air, it turned around and flew back into the window. The pope grinned widely and threw up his hands in defeat.

The same day, the pope came down with the flu and was taken to Gemelli hospital, where he has been treated in the past, as a precautionary measure. When the pope had appeared at his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square to lead the Sunday noon Angelus Jan. 31, his voice was hoarse.

For more on the pope's condition, see the story on page 1.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 6 — 12 p.m. Mass
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

Feb. 13 — 3 p.m. Rite of Election
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

Feb. 12 — 6 p.m. Mass for Campus Ministry
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

Discussing non-violence



COURTESY PHOTO

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, serves as guest speaker during an Interfaith Weekend event held at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro Jan. 14-15. Emphasizing Jesus' vision of his community as found in Matthew's Gospel, Father Kloster listed 10 principles derived from the words and actions of Jesus, including the all-inclusiveness of the church, the practice of the servant mode of action rather than the mode of dominance and power, and the attitude and practice of non-violence.

Father Vincent Erb dies at 82

FLOURTOWN, Pa. — Father Vincent Ignatius Erb, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, died Jan. 26. He was 82.

A funeral Mass for Father Erb, who was residing at St. Joseph's Villa in Flourtown, Pa., was held Feb. 1, with internment following at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Erb served in parishes across the country, but the majority of his service was in the region of North Carolina that became the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972.

Father Erb was ordained in Wilmington by the late Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh on May 18, 1950. After a few months on duty with the Home Mission Apostolate at Sacred Heart Church in Whitesville, Father Erb was appointed as parochial vicar at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro. He also served as parochial vicar for churches in Jacksonville and Durham before being appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard in June 1954.

In January 1957, Father Erb became pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville, where he served until September 1965. After several months in residence at St. Bernadette Church in Goldsboro, Father Erb became pastor of St. Therese Church in Mooresville.

Over the next few years, Father Erb



Father Vincent Erb

served as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, St. Pius X Church (now St. Philip the Apostle Church) in Statesville and Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy.

In November 1980, Father Erb returned to Greensboro as pastor of St. Benedict Church. His health began to fail while serving at there and, after a period of residence at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, Father Erb was granted early retirement for health reasons on July 1, 1984. After retirement, Father Erb made his home in Willow Grove, Pa.

Father Erb is survived by a niece and nephew, great nieces and a great nephew.

Birch of Troop 8 earns rank of Eagle Scout

CHARLOTTE — Andrew Birch, a member of Boy Scout Troop 8 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Birch, a freshman at Charlotte Catholic High School, helped refurbish the backyard of the convent for the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte.

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—James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review

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For information, call Cindi Feerick at The Catholic News & Herald: (704) 370-3332.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Opting for coffee with a difference

COFFEE, from page 1

contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers — especially in the global South."

Fair Trade is part of the CRS Coffee Project.

"The CRS Coffee Project is an education, advocacy, and consumer initiative developed in partnership with the Interfaith Coffee Program of Equal Exchange," CRS's Web site states. "The project provides a concrete way for Catholics in the United States to live their faith in solidarity with coffee, tea and cocoa producers in Latin America, Africa and Asia who suffer as a result of unfair trade practices."

Mary Joyce and Vernon Dixon, and Pat and Joan Mahan are Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's Fair Trade coffee coordinators. At St. William Church, coordinators are Lois Miller, Pat Bryson and Judith McBrier.

Mary Joyce told parishioners at the end of the Jan. 9 Mass at St. William Church that \$100 billion worth of coffee is sold worldwide each year, but that small growers receive little money for their crops, sometimes 30 cents or less per pound. However, Equal Exchange, a company that is in partnership with CRS and buys coffee directly from growers, guarantees them a minimum of \$1.20 to \$1.30 per pound. If the market



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Mike Kaufman (left) and John Burgess sample Fair Trade coffee at St. William Church in Murphy Jan. 9.

price rises above that, Equal Exchange pays growers the higher price.

"I've been in a number of countries in Latin America and have seen the people who pick the coffee," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William

Church and Immaculate of Heart of Mary Church.

"It's very hard work," he said. "They don't get paid very much, and there are only a limited number of weeks a year when they can work. Buying Fair Trade coffee will make a real difference in their lives."

"Through Equal Exchange, small-scale farmers can sell their coffee directly (avoiding middlemen), receiving a fair price, affordable credit and a long-term trading partner," Dixon said. "By serving (the coffee) at fellowship hour and other events, we can help support these farmers as they build a better future for their families and their communities."

"Fair trade practices help build pride, independence and community empowerment for small farmers and their families," CRS states. "A coffee processing plant in

El Salvador, community stores in Colombia, the training of doctors and nurses in Mexico, reforestation programs in Costa Rica, new schools in Peru — these are all examples of the initiatives that co-ops have taken in their own communities with the income from fair trade."

How did the two parishes get involved?

"Vernon and I have a peace and social justice group that meets in our home," Mary Joyce said. "We came to a Pax Christi meeting and learned Father (Kloster) was encouraging the pastoral councils to do this. It's absolutely wonderful to have the support of your pastor."

Fair Trade's organic, shade-grown coffee is environmentally friendly.

Equal Exchange says that its "organic coffees are grown by farmers who manage the soil in a sustainable agricultural system promoting natural cycles and controls, rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers, to develop the beans to their fullest potential."

"Shade-grown" means that farmers don't cut native trees to plant more coffee trees.

"A typical shade-grown farm is made up of coffee trees grown alongside other food crops under a canopy of taller trees," Equal Exchange says. "These taller trees provide fruit, wood and other valuable products to the farmer while offering protection and nutrients to the coffee plants and preventing erosion to the soil."

These farming methods and the higher prices paid to farmers mean that fairly traded coffee is somewhat more expensive than more familiar commercial brands. Sold at cost at St. William Church, regular coffee was \$5 a 12-ounce bag; decaf was \$6 per 12-ounce bag.

"It's true that drinking Fair Trade coffee will cost you more than your present brand, but in more than one way it's putting your money where your mouth is," Dixon said.

St. William parishioners Don and Rosie Stillwagon tried the coffee brewed in the parish hall and ordered several bags of beans.

"It was very good, very robust," Don Stillwagon said. "I've been looking for this coffee. I heard about it at a bird conservatory in Alaska that promoted Fair Trade coffee because it preserves the trees for the birds."

"I see no sense in buying \$8-, \$10- or \$12-a-pound gourmet coffee when we can get this," he said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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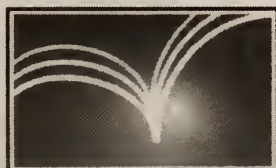
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FEMINISTS AGAINST ABORTION

Speaker to bring unique pro-life message to diocese

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America, will present "The Feminist Case Against Abortion" in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Foster will give her acclaimed speech at three locations — Belmont Abbey College Feb. 15, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Feb. 16 and Davidson College Feb. 17. The talks, sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte, diocesan Catholic Campus Ministry and Belmont Abbey, are free and open to the public.

Since 1994, Foster has served at Feminists for Life of America, a pro-life organization based in Washington.

Founded in 1972, Feminists for Life is a national non-sectarian, grassroots organization that continues the efforts of the early American feminists, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, to systematically eliminate the root causes that drive women to abortion by facilitating practical solutions.

Foster is widely recognized as an international spokesperson for pro-life feminism.

Foster's speech, "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," was published in the anthology *Women's Rights*, which is one volume in a series of "Great Speeches in History." In her speech, Foster addresses 200 years of pro-life feminism and explains how the modern women's movement came to support abortion.

The early feminists were pro-life, said Foster.

"Abortion is contradictory to feminism," she said. "The more you know about the remarkable women who set the first examples, the more you will see why you can be pro-life and pro-women."

Foster also will examine "solutions for today" and "how to help women create a world that supports women, honors fathers and protects children."

"I am still asked if Feminists for Life is an oxymoron, but there's nothing more consistent than supporting women and children, rejecting violence and exploitation," she said.

"Serrin Foster and Feminists For Life of America are reclaiming true feminism by exposing the lie of the modern feminist movement: that in order for women to have equal access to education and equality in the workplace, women must deny who they are, choose against their children and embrace abortion," said Cindy Brown, executive director of Room at the Inn, a Catholic maternity home in Charlotte.

"Modern feminists ironically insult women with their chauvinistic position that women must be like men in order to contribute to society — for instance, non-child bearers — and that pregnancy renders a woman mentally incompetent and unable to continue her education or maintain her job performance in the workplace," said Brown.

As one of the participants in a Jan. 23 panel discussion, "Abortion and the American Woman," at The Catholic University of America, Foster agreed

"Abortion is contradictory to feminism."

with her fellow panelists that the pro-life movement, which has long emphasized the defense of the unborn, is now also stressing the harm that abortions can cause upon women.

In the abortion debate, said Foster, it's "so easy to scream and get into corners," with people on both sides focusing on divergent points of view, instead of really looking at the women who find themselves at the center of this debate without the support or resources to see any alternatives.

"It's important to reach them now, so we can help create a world where we focus on helping women instead of eliminating people," said Foster.

"I encourage people to attend these speaking events to learn how the early feminists ... condemned abortion in the strongest terms," said Brown, "and how the two men who founded NARAL Pro-Choice America (formerly known as the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League) advocated the repeal of feminist anti-abortion laws and convinced the leaders of N.O.W. that without abortion, women could not achieve equal access to education, employment and career advancement."

WANT TO GO?

Serrin Foster will speak in Grace Auditorium at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15; in Room 112 of the Cone Center at UNC-Charlotte, 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16; and in Tomlinson Residence Hall at Davidson College, 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17.

Journalists, well-wishers flock to hospital

POPE, from page 1

Pope John Paul was hospitalized late Feb. 1 after he experienced serious difficulty breathing.

As the number of journalists crammed into the hospital foyer mushroomed by late morning Feb. 2, guards were called in to keep them from wandering around the hospital.

The pope's condition stabilized Feb. 2 and he was able to concelebrate Mass from his hospital bed, the Vatican spokesman said.

"The Holy Father was able to rest for several hours during the night; he was able to sleep," Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters about 12 hours after the pope was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

A Vatican official close to the pope told Catholic News Service Feb. 2 that "everything was calm, there was no panic" in the Vatican when the pope experienced difficulty breathing.

"They took him to the hospital just to make him more comfortable," the official said. "He needs to rest for a few days in order to recover."

Navarro-Valls told reporters the doctors had confirmed "the diagnosis of acute laryngeal tracheitis with episodes of laryngeal spasms."

He said the pope's "cardiorespiratory and metabolic" functions "are within normal limits," although the pope did have a "slight fever" in the morning.

Beyond saying that the pope received "respiratory assistance" upon arriving at the hospital at 10:50 p.m., Navarro-Valls would not specify the treatment the pope was receiving.

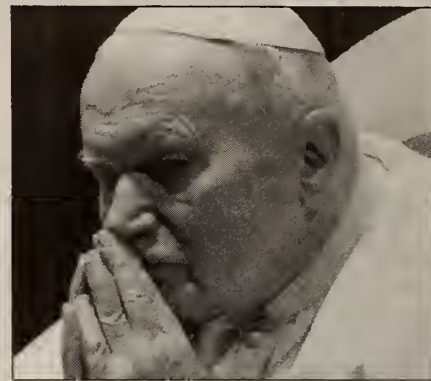
When asked if the pope had to undergo a tracheotomy, when a hole is cut in the trachea to assist breathing, Navarro-Valls said, "absolutely not."

The spokesman said the pope did not lose consciousness when he was having trouble breathing Feb. 1, but obviously the episode "was sufficiently serious" that his personal physician, Dr. Renato Buzzonetti, decided hospitalization was advisable.

The spokesman said that the pope was doing well enough at 10:15 a.m. to begin concelebrating Mass with his private secretaries.

Later Feb. 2, Navarro-Valls told Vatican Radio the pope would remain in the hospital for a few more days.

Navarro-Valls had said that the pope



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI

Pope John Paul II is pictured at his weekly general audience Jan. 26 at the Vatican, a few days before he was hospitalized for the flu.

began showing symptoms of the flu Jan. 30 and cancelled his appointments for Jan. 31.

Then, Feb. 1 Navarro-Valls said the flu was continuing its natural progression, leading the pope to cancel his appointments for Feb. 1-2 as well.

In his final public appearance before he was hospitalized, the pope appeared in his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square to lead the Sunday noon Angelus. His voice was hoarse, but it did not stop him from greeting visitors in the square below.

It was only the seventh time in 26 years that the pope returned to the Rome hospital room reserved for his use.

Although the 84-year-old pope suffers from a disease thought to be Parkinson's, no longer walks in public and often has trouble speaking and breathing, he has not required hospitalization since 1996.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope was in the room normally reserved for him, not in intensive care.

While the surgeries may be considered routine by modern medical standards, they were exceptional moments in papal history. No modern pontiff had ever gone to a hospital; as late as 1967, when Pope Paul VI needed prostate surgery, the doctors performed it inside the Vatican.

The Vatican has been more open about Pope John Paul's health problems, but it has never divulged the details of treatment for his neurological disease or even officially confirmed that it is Parkinson's, although individual cardinals have referred to it as such.

There is no cure for Parkinson's, a fact that has fueled speculation about whether the pope might eventually choose to retire instead of serving until death.

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YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Pope says attending Sunday Mass essential part of Christian living

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Attending Sunday Mass each week is a sign of a Catholic's fidelity to Christ and an essential part of Christian living, Pope John Paul II said.

"Participating in the Sunday Mass is not only an important obligation, as the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' says clearly, but, above all, it is a profound need experienced by each of the faithful," he said Jan. 21.

The pope focused on the importance of Sunday Mass during a speech to the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, which met Jan. 18-21 at the Vatican to discuss "Sunday Mass, the Center of Christian Life in Latin America."

The pope told the commission members, "One cannot live the faith without regularly participating in the Sunday Mass, the sacrifice of redemption and the common banquet of the

word of God and the eucharistic bread, the heart of Christian life."

Pope John Paul said bishops and priests must find more effective ways to communicate to the faithful the central place Sunday Mass has "in the church and social life of men and women today."

In addition to religious education about the Eucharist and the Mass, he said, pastors must ensure that their celebrations of the liturgy inspire true respect and authentic piety among the faithful.

The celebrant's preparation of the liturgy, the pope said, must include a strong spiritual component that will be reflected in his gestures, his words and his homily.

"Special attention also must be dedicated to the selection and preparation of songs, signs and other resources that enrich the liturgy, always with respect for the established norms," he said.

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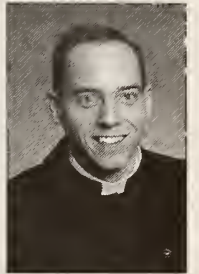
— Estelle Wisneski
St. Gabriel Church parishioner

Dominus Vobiscum

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 6

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



The ritual of the Mass is divided into two distinct parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Each of these is subdivided into smaller parts called rituals or the abbreviated version, "rites." Since the Mass has a structure and character that is universal and formal, the celebrant needs only to follow the directions of the ritual: to read the prayers and perform the actions set out in the Roman Missal.

As we mentioned a few weeks ago, following the sacred ritual allows the freedom of both the celebrant and the congregation to participate in the Mass. And so the Mass begins with a short ritual known as the "Introductory Rites," which include the Sign of the Cross, the formal greeting, the "Penitential Rite," the Gloria and the Opening Collect or Prayer. The purpose of these "Introductory Rites" is to draw us into prayer and to prepare our hearts and minds to listen to God's Word and to participate in his sacrifice.

Last week, we followed the celebrant as he processed into the sanctuary, revered the altar with a kiss and incensed it. The celebrant arrives at the chair. And so the Mass begins.

Notice that the Mass does not begin with the informal greeting by a lector or cantor, welcoming people to the parish. The Mass does not begin with the entrance hymn or the entrance procession. The Mass does not begin with "Good morning" or "Did you catch the game last night?" or "Nice weather we're having!" or other commentary by the celebrant.

Rather, the Mass begins "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." We begin the Mass as we begin all prayer by addressing God, greeting the Blessed Trinity, through whom and by whom the Mass is celebrated. The Sign of the Cross marks the beginning of the Mass, as well as the end of the Mass with the final blessing.

Although the ritual of the Mass is divided into parts, it is "one single act of worship" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 56). And so, from beginning to end the Mass is accomplished "in the name" of God; it is the opus Dei, the "work of God," which we enter as we begin the Mass.

Beginning with the Sign of the Cross reminds us that we gain access to the Father by virtue of our baptism:

we were introduced to the cross as it was signed upon our foreheads and holy water was poured over our head three times in the name of each person of the Blessed Trinity. Baptism consecrates us as children of the heavenly Father who can now enter into the saving mysteries of the Son accomplished on our behalf.

The Sign of the Cross is used throughout the Mass to bless and consecrate, for it is by the power of the cross of Christ that our redemption was won and our sanctification is completed.

Following the Sign of the Cross, the celebrant greets the congregation, not in his own words, but with words taken from sacred Scripture found in the epistles of St. Paul. There are three options for the priest — either "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all"; "the grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you"; or simply "Dominus Vobiscum" ("The Lord be with you").

Only the bishop says, "Pax Vobiscum" ("Peace be with you"), by virtue of his office as vicar of Christ, recalling the words of our Lord to his apostles after his resurrection.

The congregation responds, "Et cum spiritu tuo," that is, "and with your spirit." "And also with you" is a poor translation of the Latin that is to be corrected in the next few years.

This exchange between the celebrant and the congregation completes the first dialogue of the Mass, expressing the reciprocal conversation between Christ, the head, and the Church, his Mystical Body.

Next week we will complete our discussion of the "Introductory Rites" by examining the "Penitential Rite."

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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Iraqi church officials laud elections

IRAQ, from page 1

Even if polling in some places proved less than perfect, "the most important thing is that the people went; they went despite the violence, the fear and terrorism," he said.

Millions of Iraqis cast their votes Jan. 30 in the country's first democratic election in decades. They voted for a 275-member transitional National Assembly that will eventually choose a new government that will, in turn, elect the country's president and prime minister.

But despite clamped-down security and a daylong ban on most traffic, some 44 people were killed Jan. 30 after insurgents carried out a string of attacks and suicide bombings.

Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad condemned those who used violence to express their opposition to the vote.

"It's possible to have differing opinions, but some showed it with ferocity, others peacefully," he said.

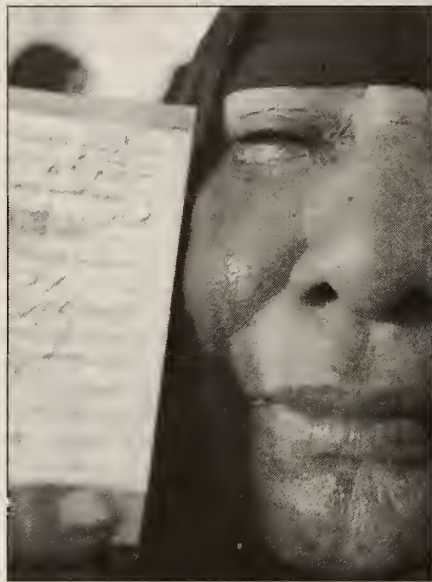
"Everyone, Christians and Muslims, went to vote as one people," he told the Italian-based missionary news agency Asianews Jan. 31.

"Those who want the best for our country cast a vote," he said.

Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad told Vatican Radio Jan. 31 he was partially satisfied with the election process.

"On the one hand I am certainly satisfied because it means we are going forward with democracy and freedom; but on the other hand, I am not satisfied because not everyone participated," he said.

Early exit polls suggested that in some parts of Iraq a substantial percent-



age of Sunni Muslims did not vote. More than 62 percent of Iraq's population is Shiite Muslim, while 34 percent is Sunni Muslim, a different branch of Islam.

Under Saddam Hussein, power was generally in the hands of the Sunni minority.

If too many Sunnis opted out of elections, "we will have some difficulties" in forging a united country, said Bishop Warduni.

But most Catholic leaders said they were optimistic a fully democratic process would benefit the whole country no matter what group obtains a majority in the transitional assembly.

Chaldean Archbishop Djibrail Kassab of Basra told Asianews that "Christians, like all Iraqis, just want a government, a constitution and a democracy."

Father Najim said, "If there is a capable citizen who wants to help build a new Iraq, we will support him" no matter what his religious affiliation may be.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Left: An Iraqi woman weeps after casting her vote at a polling station in the holy city of Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 30. Above: Men and women line up separately at a polling station in Basra in southern Iraq Jan. 30. The country held its first free elections in a half-century. Iraqi Catholic leaders praised the turnout of voters despite fears of attacks, and they said they were optimistic that the democratic process will benefit the country.

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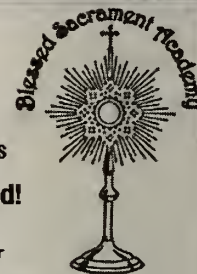
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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

New book celebrates vocations, lives of Poor Clare Sisters

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VICTORIA, Texas — In honor of the 750th anniversary of the life and charism of St. Clare of Assisi, the Mother Bentivoglio Federation of Poor Clare monasteries has released a book titled "Wrapped in Joy: Franciscan Poor Clare Sisters Share Special Stories."

Compiled by Sister Katherine of the Monastery of St. Clare in Victoria, "Wrapped in Joy" is a celebration of the lives and vocations of Poor Clare Sisters throughout the world.

Sister Katherine said she wanted to share the stories of the sisters so that others would be inspired to follow the way of St. Francis and St. Clare in their everyday lives, "walking in the footprints of Jesus."



St. Clare of Assisi

Nearly 100 sisters share inspiring stories of their lives and vocations in "Wrapped in Joy." The stories reflect lives that are diverse in age, experience, personality and background.

And yet, as Father Murray Bodo, a Franciscan priest and scholar, says in a welcome note in the book, "It is God's providence that has brought them together in monasteries across America and throughout the world."

In her introduction, Sister Frances

Teresa writes: "At its very best, Poor Clare life is a generous sharing in the total self-giving of the Trinity."

Sister Frances Teresa is the author of numerous books on Franciscan spirituality.

The stories found in "Wrapped in Joy" reveal much about the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare. The book also features special sections detailing the evangelical life of St. Clare and includes excerpts from her letters.

"From the very beginning, Franciscan spirituality has much to do with stories: the stories of Francis and Clare, the stories they told and wrote down of God's marvelous providence and surprising intervention in their lives," writes Father Bodo.

"The Franciscan story from Francis and Clare until now in the 21st century is filled with stories like those found on the pages of 'Wrapped in Joy,' lovingly gathered: stories of women who have responded to God's call and entered the monastery of St. Clare of Assisi, the first woman Franciscan," he says.

"What is the core story that all their stories partake of? It is the story of Christ, surely, but more specifically it is the story of a way of extending Christ's story, which St. Clare lived and handed down to her sisters," the priest adds.



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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 13, 2005

Feb. 13, First Sunday of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm: 51:3-6, 12-13, 17
- 2) Romans 5:12-19
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Forgiveness comes through obedience of Jesus

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

There's a funny paradox that happens when folks make really bad mistakes, especially ones they know they knew better than to make.

Often they then come to believe that God can't possibly forgive them. They knew better. They sinned. Now they deserve whatever God has in store for them as punishment.

We've all seen people in despair because of their actions. The Scriptures have it true to life in Psalm 51 when the psalmist says, "Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, [so] that you [God] may be justified in your sentence, vindicated when you condemn."

The psalmist goes on to define what the wrongdoer really wants in his broken, repentant state: "A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew

within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your holy spirit take not from me."

In this week's reading from Romans, the Apostle Paul outlines the way this justification before God, this clearing of the slate of offenses, has taken place through the obedience of Jesus.

Referring back to the story of the fall in Genesis, Paul speaks of how Jesus' following all of the Father's instructions leads us there: "To sum up, then: Just as a single offense brought condemnation to all men, a single righteous act brought all men acquittal and life. Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, through one man's obedience all shall become just."

We've all seen friends and loved ones desperate for God's forgiveness, unable to forgive themselves, putting up barriers to forgiveness. Yet this is what Jesus came into the world for. He didn't come into the world to save perfect people who always did the right thing. He came to save sinners, people who do the wrong things. And he delights in extending that forgiveness.

You and I so often want to measure out forgiveness to others with thimbles. Jesus wants us to trade our thimbles for buckets or, if we have real courage, to imitate his own generosity and measure out our forgiving love in ocean-sized quantities, washing away all traces of the offenses.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6-12

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16; Monday, Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; Tuesday, Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; Thursday (Thursday after Ash Wednesday), Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; Friday (Our Lady of Lourdes), Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; Saturday (Saturday after Ash Wednesday), Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13-19

Sunday (First Sunday in Lent), Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Roman 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; Monday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius), Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; Thursday (Seven Founders of the Servite Order), Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Ester's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

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Vatican uncovers screen gems to inaugurate newly restored theater

*Guests shown rare
'Dante's Inferno'
reel, other films at
inauguration*

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Sifting through thousands of films tucked away in the Vatican Film Library, members of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications dug back in time and picked their oldest and most precious screen gems to show for the grand unveiling of the Vatican's newly restored and modern-equipped cinema.

For the Jan. 20 inauguration of the remodeled theater, invited guests were shown an 1896 reel of Pope Leo XIII and a rare 1910 dramatization of Dante's "Inferno," along with a sneak preview of a new documentary by Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, welcomed dozens of special guests, including the council's president emeritus, Cardinal Andrzej Deskur.

The new theater, "Sala Cardinal Deskur," was dedicated to the Polish-born prelate in honor of 50 years of service to the Holy See.

Funding for the complete makeover, which included plush new armchairs, a 19-foot-by-8-foot screen, and a state-of-the-art projector and sound system, came from the Knights of Columbus as well as from the Italian film companies Cinecitta and Istituto Luce.

At the inaugural event, 80-year-old Cardinal Deskur, who is confined to a wheelchair, enjoyed a front-row viewing next to the wheelchair of Antonioni, 92.

Antonioni, known for his films, "L'Avventura" and "Beyond the Clouds," took part in the evening's special screening to offer a sneak-peek showing of his new documentary,

"Michelangelo, Eye to Eye."

The 20-minute film shows Antonioni walking into Rome's St. Peter in Chains Church to gaze at the newly restored marble statue of Moses, sculpted by the 16th-century artist, Michelangelo Buonarroti.

The film captures, in absolute silence, the rapture and respect of the director contemplating, savoring and, in the end, caressing the intricate details and lifelike folds and curves of the imposing statue.

Archbishop Foley said the three films were chosen for the inaugural event because "they represent the importance of cinema in human history, in its aim to be the bearer of culture and mirror of human sensitivity."

At the start of the evening, when the lights went out, the first showing of Pope Leo never appeared on the screen.

Puzzled, Archbishop Foley remarked with a laugh, "Pope Leo has never given us trouble before."

Soon, however, the elderly bespectacled pope came to life on the screen.

In one of the very first motion picture films made soon after the Lumiere brothers invented the modern cam-motion mechanism, Pope Leo is seen sitting with guards and attendants at his side, adjusting his skullcap and blessing the camera.

In another scene, the pope gets off a horse-drawn carriage, walks slowly with his cane to a bench, where he takes off his sun hat, adjusts his glasses and again blesses the camera with long, liquid movements of his frail hand.

The second film of the evening was what once had been the sole remaining copy of the 1910 dramatization of Dante's vision of hell in his first canticle of "The Divine Comedy." "Inferno," the short, silent movie, was the first film to use special effects with modern techniques such as tampering with the film's emulsion to produce what looks like fire raining on writhing sinners.

Archbishop Foley joked it was quite "paradoxical that they would find 'hell' in the Vatican."

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Students participate, win in model U.N. program

HIGH POINT — Eight students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point received awards for their participation in a model United Nations program.

The group was among 75 students from Triad-area Catholic schools to take part in the middle school Model U.N. Program, hosted by Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville Jan. 25.

The students, who had researched and written papers on Cyprus and threats to U.N. personnel, were placed into two-person delegations representing Security Council Member nations. They then were divided into groups and spent the day debating and discussing the issues using parliamentary procedures and formal Model U.N. procedures.

At the end of the day, awards were given based upon effective participation and performance.

Students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School to receive awards were eighth-graders Emily Sickelbaugh and Katie Shank, representing France; seventh-grader Jennifer Lindh and eighth-grader Parker Hendrix, representing the United Kingdom and named "Outstanding Delegation"; Alexander Adzima and George Schlaeppli, seventh-graders representing the United States, who received a special moderator-created award for their "outrageously unrealistic, yet awesomely creative" resolution proposal; and eighth-grader Elizabeth Sheffield and seventh-grader Kenneth Kennedy, representing the Russian Federation, who received the "Best Delegation" award for their room as voted on by the other delegates.

Also participating as a delegation from Immaculate Heart of Mary School were seventh-graders Kevin Saxon and Connor Gehling.

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Santa's helpers



COURTESY PHOTO BY AL TINSON

Members of Charlotte Catholic High School's state championship football team greet young basketball players and cheerleaders at the Double Oaks Resource Center in Charlotte Dec. 18. The high school students, along with Boy Scouts from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte and Columbian Squires of St. John Neumann Council 7343, helped deliver food, clothing and Christmas presents to nearly 200 needy families in the Charlotte area as part of the Special Olympics' annual Operation Santa's Helpers. Family members came to Double Oaks, where presents and clothing were matched to their needs.



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Two Charlotte Catholic students compete to be Presidential Scholars

CHARLOTTE — Two students at Charlotte Catholic High School were chosen as candidates for the Presidential Scholars award.

Melissa Brzycki and Matthew Lail, both seniors at Charlotte Catholic, were among the 40 students selected from North Carolina.

They will compete to be included among 500 national semifinalist in June and then compete to be one of 141 potential Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The winning students will receive Presidential Scholars medallions during a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

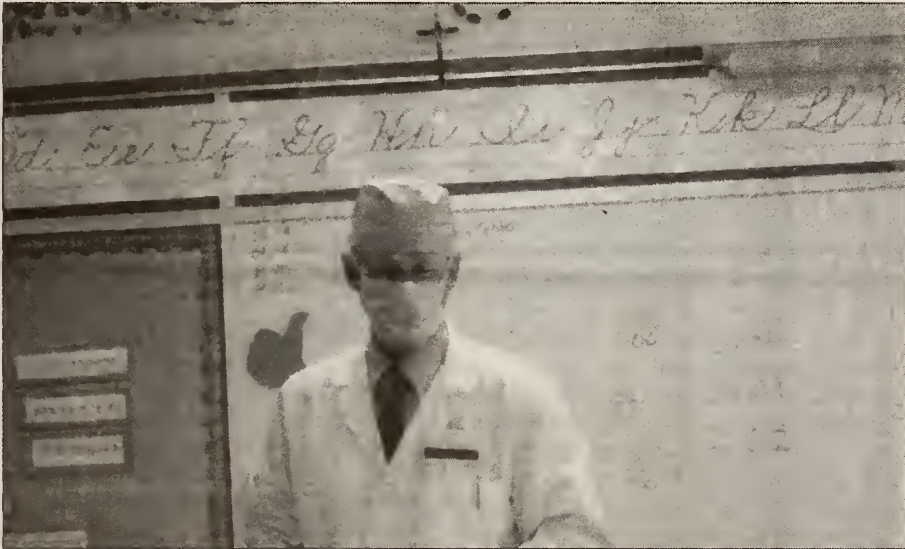
The Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school stu-

dents. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts.

"The Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas — academic and artistic success, leadership and involvement in school and the community," said Melissa Apostolides, executive director of the U.S. Department of Education's Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Up to 141 students are named annually as Presidential Scholars. Students may become Presidential Scholars based on two paths of accomplishment: the majority are selected on the basis of broad academic achievement; approximately 20 students are selected on the basis of academic and artistic scholarship in the visual arts, performing arts or creative writing.

Operating procedures



COURTESY PHOTO BY PATTI LEFLORE

Fourth-graders at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte recently took an imaginary trip to a hospital operating room thanks to St. Gabriel Church parishioner Dr. Thomas Zweng, a member of Charlotte Surgical Group. After reviewing human body systems, Zweng distributed props — shoe and head covers for nurses and doctors, surgical gloves and masks — to the students for them to assist with the removal of gall bladder. Using various tools and instruments, the students, as well as teacher Denise Heskamp and Vice Principal Anna O'Brien, followed Zweng through the pretend operation. "The students were attentive, well behaved and asked thought-provoking questions," said Zweng.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The best meal on a cruise ship

Onboard priests bring God sailing

SOMEWHERE IN THE CARIBBEAN — Dinner aboard the Mariner of the Seas cruise ship recently included chilled peach soup, Caesar salad, lobster, prime rib and a hazelnut soufflé for dessert. But after a week's worth of gargantuan meals such as that, I found that the best meal on the ship started out as a thin slice of bread that was transformed into a banquet by a priest from Maryland.

Jesus Father Sal Jordan is pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco, Md. Along with some of his parishioners, Father Jordan was on his first cruise. As bad luck would have it, he picked a difficult one. The weather was windy and chilly for two days and the 12-foot seas the ship rolled through on its way to the Caribbean caused him to experience seasickness.

Like myself and most of the other 3,400 passengers onboard this huge ship, Father Jordan was on vacation. I enjoyed being in a place that was far away from the media hype that is a part of my everyday experience. For Father Jordan, a native of Puerto Rico, it was a chance to get away from the cold weather for a few days.

Royal Caribbean makes an effort to have a minister, preferably a Catholic priest, onboard each of its 29 ships every week. Priests are preferred over other ministers because they can lead a non-denominational service and celebrate Mass while other ministers can only offer the non-denominational service. In return for a free stateroom, the priest is asked to celebrate daily Mass, offer a ministerial ear to anyone who wants to talk and lead a non-denominational service for the crew. That makes it a busman's holiday for a priest but Father Jordan was delighted.

"I usually say several Masses, so this was very relaxing," he said. "Plus, I got to meet so many wonderful people."

But the rough seas took their toll on Father Jordan.

"There was one Mass where I may have looked a little gray and I think I was holding the altar with one hand during the consecration," he said.

Despite how Father Jordan may have felt, he was a cheerful messenger of the Lord who included a brief homily in each of his Masses. In the luxurious surroundings of the ship, he reminded us of the tsunami victims and how they and many others are in need of our prayers

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



and assistance.

Because of the ship's rocking motion, the captain requested a change in the order of the Mass. To keep us from falling down during the service, we were asked to remain seated during the Gospel readings and the consecration. And, because of a flu outbreak onboard, a friendly wave or other gesture was substituted for the Sign of Peace handshake.

When you think about it, the giant cruise ships that prowl the Caribbean during the cold winter months represent an ultimate in technology, comfort and luxury. Everything was spotlessly clean and there was so much good food to eat that my jaws got tired from all the chewing. Cruising is a good vacation value, but it isn't cheap and, if you can afford the luxury of a cruise vacation, you have a lot for which to be thankful.

But how do you express those thanks? For Father Jordan and many others, the best opportunity was at sunrise and sunset.

"I remember a sunset," he said, "I was sitting with some lady passengers from Panama. We were admiring the view and praying as the sun went down. To me, that speaks of God and of nature."

It was beautiful and it was idyllic to combine the Lord's spirit with a nice vacation.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

The elusiveness of spiritual happiness

Joy is the fruit of compassion

"Happiness is a butterfly
Which when pursued is just
out of grasp
But if you will sit down quietly,
May alight upon you."
— Nathaniel Hawthorne

Divine joy is like an elusive butterfly. The desire to catch it is strong, but too much activity will chase it away. Patience is more effective than frantic pursuit.

This is also true when it comes to the human hunger for God. Pope John Paul II spoke of the great human desire to touch God in some way. "It is a need," he said, "that can be as physical as the need for food and water."

At a general audience April 26, 2002, the pope addressed the pilgrims with these words: "Just as the arid land is dead until irrigated by rain, so the faithful yearn for God in order to exist in joyful communion with him."

It is precisely in our intimate relationship with divine life that we find this joy, but more often than not the ability to appreciate it eludes us. Everyone who has faith is capable of receiving the gift of God's eternal joy, but unless they show patience with God they may be frustrated.

Nonbelievers do not have the ability to sense any sign of God's presence in the church. The church for them is an enigma, not a genuine carrier of divine love. They see only the outer shell, the sins and scandals. Then they mock the church and distance themselves from it.

This is understandable, but so foolish. By judging too harshly, and moving too quickly, they sabotage their own best chance for the deep happiness of sacred communion.

Divine joy is the gigantic secret of the church's survival. The church is the mystical body of Christ. Consequently, it has divine life flowing in

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN
CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



and through it.

Once you understand the distinction between the human and the divine elements of the church, the joy of the Blessed Trinity will come to you in ways you may have least suspected. Then supernatural joy is yours to relish and share.

Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, a 19th-century mystic, once wrote: "The secret of happiness and the secret of all the saints is that they loved God as a friend." To love God as a friend is so simple, and yet so elusive. God is pure mystery.

The saints are the ones who love God best. Despite all the sins of those around them, they focus on love and healing.

To be a saint is to minister to sinners, not denounce them. Those who have brought shame and disgrace to the door of the church are not enemies; they are our children and our responsibility. Jesus gave up his life to save them. The servant is not greater than the master.

"The big problem that confronts Christianity is not Christ's enemies. No, persecution has never done much harm to the inner life of the church. The real problem exists in the souls of those who in their hearts believe in God, and who recognize their obligation to love him and serve him, yet do not!" (Thomas Merton)

We all have the obligation to bring God's healing to others. Joy is the fruit of compassion.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

No more chocolate? Going to Mass every Friday? Please submit in writing, in 100 words or less, how you or your family members will observe Lent this year.

E-mail your submissions to kaevans@charlottediocese.org by Feb. 14.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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'This is my body'

Familiar words with different results

Did you ever realize that the same four words used by the Lord Jesus to save the world are also used by some to promote abortion? "This is my body." The same simple words are spoken from opposite ends of the universe, with meanings that are directly contrary to each other.

Scripture tells us that on the night before he died to save all people, the Lord Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given up for you." He was pointing to what would happen the next day, when he would give that same body on the cross.

He sacrifices himself so that we may live. He gives up his body so that he can destroy the power of sin and death. As a result, he welcomes us into his life, into his kingdom. He makes us members of his body!

On the other hand, abortion supporters say, "This is my body. So don't interfere with it! It's mine, so I can do what I want, even to the point of killing the life within it. All is secondary to my dominion over my body."

In fact one abortion supporter has written: "I say their (pro-lifers') God is worth nothing compared to my body"

Guest Column

FATHER
FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



(Michelle Goldberg, "Rant for Choice," in the University of Buffalo student newspaper, 1995).

"This is my body." Same words, different results. Christ gives his body away so others might live; abortion supporters cling to their own bodies so others might die. In giving his body, Christ teaches the meaning of love: I sacrifice myself for the good of the other person. Abortion teaches the opposite of love: I sacrifice the other person for the good of myself!

"This is my body." If, indeed, our body is ours, then let's ask the next question: Why? The answer is so that we can give our bodies, our lives, ourselves, away in love to one another and to God. Christ declares, "Do this in memory of me." He calls us to do what he

did, and that is precisely how we reverse the dynamic of abortion. Mom and Dad must say to their child, "This is my body, my life, given for you," rather than, "This is my body, my life, so go away!"

Human happiness and fulfillment are never found by pushing other people out of the way. They are found when we push ourselves out of the way. Pope John Paul II says as much in *Evangelium Vitae* No. 51: He who had come "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk. 10:45), attains on the cross the heights of love: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn. 15:13). And he died for us while we were yet sinners (cf. Rom. 5:8).

In this way, Jesus proclaims that life finds its center, its meaning and its fulfillment when it is given up.

At this point our meditation becomes praise and thanksgiving, and at the same time urges us to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps (cf. 1 Pt. 2:21).

We, too, are called to give our lives for our brothers and sisters, and thus to realize in the fullness of truth the meaning and destiny of our existence.

"This is my body." It is no accident that the same words are used for such different purposes. A spiritual conflict rages here. We win, in our own lives and in the world, by living these words in self-giving, life-giving love.

Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.

Reflections on the inauguration

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



The day before President Bush's second inauguration, I saw two young men at Washington's Union Station holding the sign, "Four More Years of Bush: Have Faith in Jesus."

I was confused. Did the sign mean that we should believe it is the will of Christ that Bush be president or did it mean that only faith in Jesus would help us endure four more years of him?

I laughed at my divided thoughts and how they represent the division our nation is experiencing. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the last two presidential elections. In fact, we live in an age of divisions. Those on the right and the left are more divided than ever. Many of our allies are now at odds with us. And in churches that preach unity we have more differences than agreements.

I believe Inauguration Day should be a time to reflect on what we have learned about life and to thank God for the blessings we have received.

In all reality, there never has been a time in our history when we didn't have differences. Reflecting on divisions during the presidencies of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant makes today's divisions seem like child's play by comparison.

History shows that division always has been one of our nation's characteristics. Yet, we seem somehow to hold together. Why? Because we are blessed with freedom. If we don't like someone's policies, we are free to vote, march and speak out loudly against them. We know how to function despite divisions.

If divisions spawn corruption, the press and lawmakers tend to find a way to expose that. And if the press and lawmakers aren't truthful, others are there to correct them. Our country is blessed with systems of checks and balances.

My old pastor believed that we always will be blessed because we are a giving nation. We have a very decent track record when it comes to helping poor nations — not just in terms of giving money, but more in terms of our volunteering on behalf of foreign cultures. The love extended by our volunteers abroad is one very big reason we continue to be blessed.

Another reason we are blessed is that we believe in freedom for all. Our military cemeteries honor those who gave their lives for this ideal. As Christ gave his life to free us from our sins, these men and women gave their lives and in a very true way replicate Christ's redemption.

Thanks to inauguration days, we have the opportunity to dwell more on our blessings and less on our divisions.

Communion for Celiac sufferers

Q. More than a year ago, we wrote to you about Communion for our daughter who has celiac disease. You replied that no hosts were available that satisfied the church's requirement for the Eucharist and were also safe for those with this disease.

Our daughter will be ready for her first Communion this coming spring. We read on a celiac Web site that a new form of bread is nearly gluten-free and medically acceptable for Catholic Communion. Is this true? It is something we and many other parents of such children have been desperately hoping for. (Pennsylvania)

A. It is true, and apparently it promises to solve the problem for a host of families.

First, a little background for those who may not be familiar with this physical affliction. Celiac is a disease in which gluten, a protein found in barley, wheat and other cereals, cannot be tolerated.

The disease can be insidious, attacking digestive organs slowly but often with serious consequences. Without a gluten-free diet it may be life-threatening, leading to malnutrition, pancreatic disease, possibly some forms of cancer and a variety of other physical and neurological disorders.

Since awareness and diagnosis of the illness has increased in recent de-

cadec, it has been discovered that about one in every 130 Americans is affected, vastly more than was previously believed.

The special problem for Catholics, of course, is that eucharistic bread must be made from wheat, of which an essential element is gluten. Until recently, no one had found a way to make edible hosts with a sufficiently small amount of gluten safe for celiac sufferers and at the same time liturgically acceptable.

For a long time, the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Mo., have baked Communion hosts for parishes and other institutions. One of the community, Sister Jane Heschmeyer, set out to find a formula that could be used by celiac patients.

With the help of other sisters in her convent, after numerous experiments and consultation with physicians, grain specialists, attorneys and other related experts, a recipe was developed for hosts with a gluten content of only .01 percent.

Dr. Alessio Fasano of the University of Maryland, a Catholic, has researched and written extensively about the disease. He and other medical experts, whose findings have been published in the magazine *Gluten-Free Living*, regard the new formula as safe for almost all celiac sufferers. Obviously, however, patients should seek

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



the advice of their personal physicians before receiving these hosts in Communion. For some, even this small amount may be unsafe.

One suggested solution has been to receive the Eucharist in the form of wine rather than bread. Parents of some children with the disease have told me, however, that many wines have additives or fermentation products that contain gluten.

Several months ago the new recipe was approved by the Vatican and later by the American bishops for eucharistic use. Families facing this problem might speak with their parish priest. Simple procedures are possible to accommodate children and adults who cannot tolerate the usual wheat hosts.

Information on the altar breads produced by the Clyde Sisters is available from their Web site, www/altarbreadsbenedictinesisters.org, or by calling 1-800-223-2772.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the Holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

St. Margaret Mary Church — a thriving parish for seven decades

ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH
102 Andrew Place
Swannanoa, N.C. 28778-2506
(828) 686-2506

Vicariate: Asheville
Pastor: Father Frank J. Seabo
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Ralph Eckoff
Number of Households: 293



Father Frank J. Seabo

SWANNANOVA — The year was 1933 when a connection between Swannanoa and New Bedford, Mass., brought a new migration of Catholics to the North Carolina mountain area called "Grey Eagle" by the native Cherokee. Thanks to that influx of Catholics due to industrial relocation, St. Margaret Mary Church was founded.

A key figure in this migration was Charles D. Owen, whose family's Beacon Manufacturing Company was part of New England's industrial landscape. Owen had purchased a farm in Swannanoa in 1923, and two years later, the plant he had built in western North Carolina to complement the business began operations.



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa was founded in 1933 to serve the spiritual needs of Catholics emigrating from the North.

In previous years, eastern Buncombe County Catholics — those already settled and those moving into the area — were confronted with a 20-mile roundtrip, mostly on unpaved roads, to go to Mass at St. Lawrence Church (now the Basilica of St. Lawrence) in Asheville. As the roots of Beacon and other industries took hold in the area, the need for a new Catholic church east of Asheville was realized.

In the spring of 1936, Bishop William Hafey of Raleigh purchased a plot of land in the Grovemont subdivision of Swannanoa. Benedictine Father Michael McInerney of Belmont Abbey served as architect, and with funding from a bequest through the Catholic Extension Society, construction of the church and a rectory was underway on the site originally intended as the location for a hotel.

Bishop Hafey dedicated St. Margaret Mary Church in October 1936.

The first pastor was Father Joseph Federal, who later was ordained as bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City. The parish boundary was designed to include townships in eastern and southeastern Buncombe County: Oteen, Swannanoa, Black Mountain, Fairview and Broad River. Oteen and Fairview have since been transferred to other parishes.

Sisters from St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines in Asheville offered catechetical instruction for parishioners in the fall of 1936. As the parish grew over the next three decades, the need for more educational space — as well as social and worship room — became evident. In 1965, Msgr. John Manley broke ground for a multipurpose addition which was dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters in 1969. A parking area across the street from the church was donated to the parish soon thereafter.

The Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972. A year later Bishop Michael J. Begley appointed Atonement Father Pius Keating — after a 30-year Navy career as a Chaplain to the Marine Corps, as pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church. In 2005, Father Keating continues to assist local parishes by

saying Mass and hearing confessions. Father Keating was a fellow seminarian in New York and fellow pastor in the Piedmont with Bishop Begley.

Father Keating served as pastor for two decades, extending his pastoral ministry into the ecumenical community. While in Swannanoa, he founded SAGE, the seniors club that became one of the parish's most active groups during Father Keating's pastorate and remains so today.

Father Keating was succeeded in 1994 by Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio. While at St. Margaret Mary Church, Msgr. Marcaccio stressed the involvement of lay ministry and led a renovation effort of the church's interior.

When Msgr. Marcaccio was named priest-secretary for Bishop William G. Curlin in 1995, Father Andrew Latsko assumed the pastorate. He placed special emphasis on service ministries and strengthened the training and implementation of lay ministers. During his pastorate, the Holy Name Men's Club was reactivated, the Ladies' Auxiliary broadened its activities and the youth of the parish were encouraged to actively participate in church life. Father Latsko was a driving force in the formation of the Knights of Columbus Council 13016 in December of 2002.

It was also during Father Latsko's pastorate that a new rectory was purchased for the parish, parking space was expanded and improvements were made to the offices and faith formation classrooms.

In July of 2003, Father Frank Seabo was named parochial administrator of St. Margaret Mary Church. He was installed as pastor in 2004, following the episcopal ordination of Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Father Seabo began celebrating the sacraments and making hospital and home visits in Spanish. In August 2004, St. Margaret Mary Church began offering Mass in Spanish for its Hispanic parishioners. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been expanded to First Friday afternoons throughout the year.

Community outreach includes ministering at the Asheville VA Medical Center. Healing Masses are said monthly at two local nursing homes. Ministry of holy Communion to the homebound serves the bedridden and the aged of the parish. An active RCIA program, adult education, faith formation and other catechetical efforts add to parish life. The parish reaches out to the needy with its own St. Vincent de Paul Chapter, Habitat for Humanity and to local students at schools and colleges studying in the Swannanoa Valley.

The parish will celebrate its 70th anniversary in October 2006. With several founding members who are still in the area, John and Mildred Vallencourt celebrated 70 years of married life at St. Margaret Mary, and George and Opal Lemieux are founding members. Many founding members continue to attend daily Mass into their late 80s and early 90s. There are several families with three and four generations worshipping at the church that they have called home since 1936.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Understanding the Mystery
of the Mass, Part 7

| PAGE 7

FEBRUARY 11, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 19

Catholic Schools Week 2005

Diocesan, national Catholic schools showcase 'Faith in Every Student'

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — "Catholic Schools: A Faith-Filled Future" was the theme for the 31st annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 5. The centerpiece of the week — National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools — was Feb. 2.

See SCHOOLS, page 8

More Coverage

pages 9 - 12 |

Faith, fun in diocesan Catholic schools

page 18 |

'Faith in Every Student'

Ashes of repentance



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis distributes ashes during the Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Feb. 9. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. For Lenten guidelines, see page 20.

SILENT NO MORE

A doctor's perspective on abortion

SHAME, REGRET COMMON AMONG PATIENTS

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When Dr. Maureen Kennedy entered medical school, she did so thinking she would be saving lives and helping people. Because she especially enjoyed working with female patients, she found herself drawn to the fields of obstetrics and gynecology.

What began as a mission of healing and bringing life into the world eventually led to a crisis of faith.

While in her first year of residency, Kennedy was required to assist in administering abortions.

"I had no idea that this

See ABORTION, page 6

LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS

At Vatican meeting, experts debate if brain-dead means death

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The practice of harvesting vital organs from patients determined to be brain-dead was called into question by a number of Catholic medical experts at a Vatican-sponsored meeting.

Some critics of the procedure, which is legal in the United States and many European countries, cautioned that the complete cessation of brain

See DEATH, page 17

IN GOOD HANDS

Despite pope's hospitalization, Vatican offices continue to run

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — When Pope John Paul II goes to the hospital, who's in charge at the Vatican?

For Catholics and non-Catholics around the world, the question arose when the 84-year-old pontiff was hospitalized for flu complications in February. At the Vatican, how-

ever, it was almost a nonissue.

"It's not really on our minds, because most Vatican business doesn't need the pope's direct intervention," said one member of a Vatican congregation.

"And as long as the pope's absence is brief or his condition allows him to review church

See VATICAN, page 5



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope John Paul II gives a short blessing from the window of his suite at Gemelli Hospital Feb. 6 in Rome. It was the first public glimpse of the pope since he was hospitalized Feb. 1.

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TIME to shine

Diocese of Charlotte featured
in TIME Magazine

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A dab will do it

Pro golfer healed by
Lourdes water

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Perspectives

Fallen angels; Lent and daily
prayer; dreams of youth

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

STANDING UP FOR LIFE



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

La Salette Sister Constanca Parcasio (right), a guest of U.S. first lady Laura Bush, applauds during President George W. Bush's State of the Union address at the U.S. Capitol in Washington Feb. 2. Another guest pictured with the first lady was Homira Nassery of Afghanistan.

Nun who works in prison ministry a guest at State of the Union

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Sister Constanca Parcasio, a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of La Salette, was one of about two dozen people chosen by the White House to sit with first lady Laura Bush for President George W. Bush's State of the Union address Feb. 2.

Sister Parcasio is the director of prison ministry for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Arlington. She was invited to the president's speech before Congress as a representative of a faith-based group and as an acknowledgment of her work with prison inmates.

When Sister Parcasio received a letter from the White House telling her that the president and first lady wanted her to be present at the State of the Union address, she insisted that because she was just a diocesan employee it would be more fitting for the bishop or the director of Catholic Charities to go instead.

But she was told, "Sister Connie, you are the choice of the president. You will represent the faith."

When she heard this, she accepted the invitation.

"Certainly God's ways are totally different from ours" said the Filipino nun. "His flare for choosing the insig-

nificant, the weak and the poor as instruments to put across his message is just beyond my imagination."

"Whatever good will come out from my being elevated to so high a pedestal is for God alone to measure," she said. "But I was happy to be made a symbol and witness for those who believe in the existence of God. I guess my veil has served its purpose once again."

She met the president after the speech and thanked him for his support on issues related to the sanctity of life. She said the president praised Catholic Charities for the help it provides to communities. Laura Bush thanked Sister Parcasio for her work in prison ministry.

The president referred to programs like Sister Parcasio's prison ministry in his speech, noting that the U.S. government would "continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places."

He also announced an expanded use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful convictions and said he would be sending a proposal to Congress to fund training for defense counsel in capital cases, adding that "people on trial for their lives must have competent lawyers by their side."

Efforts to reform U.N. in its 60th year draw interest of Vatican

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Efforts to reform the United Nations and its approach to peace and security as it observes its 60th anniversary this year have drawn the interest and support of the Vatican.

Recent attention has been focused on the report of a high-level panel to examine "threats, challenges and change" the international organization is facing in the 21st century.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's U.N. nuncio, told the General Assembly Jan. 31 that the report "in many ways coincides with the Holy See's views."

The nuncio welcomed a broadening of the approach to peace and security that emphasizes preventing conflict and the attention to development goals that would contribute to that objective.

The panel, a 16-member group,

called development "the indispensable foundation for a collective security system that takes prevention seriously" because it helps combat the threats to security found in poverty, infectious disease, environmental degradation, civil war, terrorism and organized crime.

Archbishop Migliore said that when the United Nations was founded in 1945, security was mainly viewed as protecting nations against aggression by other nations, but now the concept has to be much broader to include threats not tied to a particular country.

Noting that the Vatican was not pacifist, he said that even though use of force was necessary at times it was "much more necessary to remove the root causes of insecurity and instability in the social, economic and cultural fields."

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — As the 40th anniversary of the closing of *Vatican Council II* approaches, many Catholics are still unaware of the importance of this ecumenical council. Msgr. John McSweeney will be giving several presentations on what Vatican II really was and its importance to the Church. All sessions will meet in the New Life Center, Room 102, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The program meets Mondays, Feb. 28; March 7 and 21; and April 4 from 7-8:15 p.m. or Tuesdays, March 1, 8 and 22; and April 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Childcare is available by reservation at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate *Mass for Women of the Diocese* Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — Larry DeWalt of Hospice of Charlotte will present "Children and Grief" Feb. 16, 6:30-8 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. All are invited to learn how death impacts children. Topics covered will be how children understand death at different ages, how children grieve, the ways parents can help children heal after a loss and what children want to hear. For more information, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 704-364-5431 ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — The *Anointing of the Sick* is a anointing powerfully demonstrates Jesus' presence among us as our healer and comforter. We invite all those who are experiencing any physical, mental or emotional afflictions, advanced age or facing surgery to receive this sacrament at a special Mass Feb.

20 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The *Society of Mary and Martha*, formerly Women's Talks, meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — We invite you to join us so that we may be with you in your illness and pain be it mental, spiritual or physical. *We will pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus for your healing.* Come and know the gentleness and unconditional love of the Lord. Claim his promise of healing and give praise and thanks for all that will be done in the Lord's holy name. We meet the third Monday of every month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at CHLT5NC@aol.com.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A *Lenten Supper-Study Series* will take place in the Kovacic Center at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Wednesdays, Feb. 16, 23, March 2 and 9. A shared meal begins at 6 p.m., and catechesis begins at 6:45 p.m. The theme this season is "The Eucharist as Sacrament, as Devotion, as Uniter/Divider and as Way of Life." Free and open to all — no fees or pre-registration necessary. Please call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

BELMONT — Father Jim Hawker, vicar of education, will be the keynote speaker at the *Young Adult Day of Reflection*, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the McCarthy Spiritual Center on the Sisters of Mercy Campus. Themed "Share the Vision, Tell

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official says Ukrainians are example to world

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ukrainians have stood up for their rights and adhered to their principles despite decades of communism and a recent election scandal, proving themselves to be an example to the world, said a Vatican official.

Ukrainians "have given a splendid example to the world of the defense of a principle — the principle of the need for fair and honest elections in a democratic society," said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley in a Feb. 7 address to staff and students of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Archbishop Foley, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, praised the country for what has been called "a miracle of peaceful protest and transition to a democratically elected government."

After Ukraine declared former

Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich the winner of a Nov. 21, 2004, presidential election, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians protested peacefully. Opposition candidate Victor Yushchenko charged fraud and appealed to the Supreme Court, which ordered the Dec. 26 rerun. Yushchenko was declared the new president.

The archbishop also praised Ukrainians who made many sacrifices under Soviet communist rule in order to profess their faith in God and their "desire to remain in union" with the pope.

"The experience of your martyrs under communism and the experience of the recent peaceful transition here in Ukraine" stand out as "some of the most effective communication imaginable — a communication of faith and a communication of freedom," he said.

the Story," the event will focus on the Gospel of St. Matthew. For registration information, contact Kay Jordan at (704) 370-3243 or e-mail wkjordan@charlottediocese.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will present its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat* at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by coffee and light refreshments. The retreat dates are Thursdays, Feb. 17 and 24 and March 3, 10 and 17. This is an opportunity for all of us to do something extra during Lent. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

HICKORY VICARIATE

NEWTON — "The poor do not need our condescending attitude or our pity. They only need our love and tenderness." — Mother Teresa. Women of Grace will meet Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in Holy Family Hall of St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St. The Group will discuss quotations from Mother Teresa on the subject of love. All are welcome. For details, call the church office at (828) 464-9207.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, will host *Landings*, an outreach program for those who have left the Catholic Church and are thinking of returning. Landings will meet Monday evenings, through March 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating should call Bonnie Tamrack, at (828) 994-2233.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — An *Ignatian Prayer Night* will be held Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. Learn about Ignatius of Loyola and experience the Jesuit way

of prayer. For details, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will present a retreat for Knights of Columbus and their spouse entitled, "A Personal Relationship with Jesus." The retreat will take place Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. For details, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — Rev. Chester Jones, pastor of Peachtree Memorial Baptist Church, will preach the first in a series of *Community Lenten Worship Services* Feb. 16, 12-12:30 p.m. at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Rev. John Rice will preach the second service, Feb. 23, 12-12:30 p.m. The series is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will begin Feb. 20. Classes will meet for 90 minutes once a month for four consecutive months. Please call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican official says Sash wearers disqualified from Communion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's top liturgy official said Rainbow Sash wearers disqualify themselves from receiving Holy Communion because they are demonstrating their opposition to church teaching on homosexuality.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, made the comment in early February.

Rainbow Sash, which describes itself as an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics and their families and friends, has criticized church statements on homosexuality, including the church's teaching that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered" and that homosexual orientation is "objectively disordered."

To underline their point, the group's members sometimes attend Mass and receive Communion wearing the sash.

Cardinal Arinze discussed the issue with at least one U.S. archbishop during U.S. bishops' visits to the Vatican in

2004. Asked about his position by CNS, Cardinal Arinze said: "Rainbow Sash wearers are showing their opposition to church teaching on a major issue of natural law and so disqualify themselves from being given holy Communion."

The church teaching that homosexual acts are contrary to natural law and that the homosexual inclination is "objectively disordered" is contained in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," which was revised and corrected in 1997.

The church also teaches that homosexuals must be accepted with love and respect and that they should not be discriminated against.

Some bishops have denied the Eucharist to Rainbow Sash members on the grounds that they were using the Eucharist to manifest opposition to church teaching. Some Rainbow Sash members have said they consider their wearing of the sash an act of celebration, not protest.

Ongoing care



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HAR

U.S. Camillian Father Scott Binet, a medical doctor from Milwaukee, examines a woman displaced by tsunamis in a camp about an hour outside of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Jan. 19. The priest is in the process of opening a medical clinic on the grounds of the only Catholic parish in Banda Aceh.

CORRECTIONS

In a Jan. 28 Catholic News Service story about Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre, family friend Patricia Ladner was incorrectly identified as a current member of the Sisters of Mercy. She was a Sister of Mercy for seven years but is no longer a member of the congregation.

In our Feb. 4 issue, Estelle Wisneski was misidentified as a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church. She is a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin's February retreat at St. Mary Church in Shelby for Knights of Columbus, listed in the Diocesan Planner, was incorrect. Bishop Curlin will not speak at St. Mary Church until May 7.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 17 — 10 a.m.
Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Feb. 20 — 3 p.m.
Rite of Election
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

Feb. 19 — 2 p.m.
Rite of Election
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

CATERING TO COMMUTERS



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of Palm Beach, Fla., stands with Catholic airport chaplains during their annual meeting at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in North Palm Beach Jan. 25-28. Those pictured include Deacon Ben Wenning (back row, third from left) and Rick Hanners (seated) from the Diocese of Charlotte.

Chaplains from Charlotte airport attend conference

Brochure lists chaplains for Mass, sacraments

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Three members of the Diocese of Charlotte recently represented the chapel at Charlotte's airport at a gathering of Catholic airport chaplains.

Deacon Ben Wenning, director of the permanent diaconate; Deacon Jerry Hickey, permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte; and Rick Hanners, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church, attended the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains' annual meeting at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center Jan. 25-28. All three men are chaplains at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

Deacon Wenning was recognized for 14 years of service on the NCCAC administrative board, serving as Secre-

tary for eight of those years. Hanners was elected to the board as a member-at-large.

Other elections included Chicago airport chaplain Father Michael Zaniolo as president and Pittsburgh chaplain Father Jack Fitzgerald as vice-president.

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of Palm Beach welcomed the chaplains and celebrated Mass with them on the opening day of the conference, which included presentations of progress reports from the various chaplains across the country.

A brochure on "Catholic Civil Aviation Apostolate," published by the NCCAC, lists the airports where Catholic Mass is offered on Sundays, weekdays and holy days; where the sac-

Diocese of Charlotte featured in TIME Magazine

Article highlights growth of Catholicism in South

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral and School and Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, as well as St. Mark Church in Huntersville are all featured in *TIME Magazine*.

The article, "Mass Appeal, Bible-Belt Catholics," by Miami Bureau Chief Tim Padgett in the Feb. 14 issue, explains how churches in the Diocese of Charlotte are responding to notable growth by "...being born again in the cradle of born-again Christianity — the South."

Padgett spent three days in the diocese, visiting schools and churches and talking with members of the clergy and the faithful as well as interviewing Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Included in the three-page article are four photographs of worshipers, Catholic school students, clergy and Bishop Jugis.

Father Christopher Roux, master of ceremonies, and Father Paul Gary,

rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, also were photographed as they celebrated a Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Patrick with Bishop Jugis.

The bishop described the article as "a tremendous statement in the mainstream media affirming our faith in Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our diocese."

"Through this exploration of our diocese, I hope that Catholics and all who are seeking Christ will grow in their own faith and love for the Lord," said Bishop Jugis.

TIME Magazine is a weekly news publication with a circulation of 4.1 million.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwains@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

The *TIME Magazine* article can be found by visiting the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

raments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick are available; and which airports — with or without a chapel — have Catholic chaplains available for "a simple ministry of presence."

A map in the brochure depicts each of the 35 U.S. airports at which a chapel or chaplain is available. Most are in the eastern half of the United States.

"The availability of pastoral services in airports is a rather recent development," the brochure notes, adding that Cardinal Richard Cushing established the first airport chapel at Logan International Airport in Boston in 1950.

"Today over 100 airport chapels in 50 nations offer pastoral care," it adds.

Chaplains minister not only to pas-

sengers but to airport and airline personnel, families, visitors, the homeless and refugees, the brochure says.

The chapel at Charlotte Douglas airport is located on the ticketing level, adjacent to TSA checkpoint "B." The chapel, which is staffed by 12 volunteers, is open 24 hours a day.

WANT MORE INFO?

Donations and volunteer assistance at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport are welcomed. For more information, contact Deacon Ben Wenning at (704) 359-4040 or e-mail cltchap@netzero.com.

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Vatican continues to run, despite pope's illness

VATICAN, from page 1

affairs from his hospital bed, there's simply no problem," the official added.

In fact, Vatican sources said, some important church business was already being sent over for papal review on the second day of the pope's hospitalization at Rome's Gemelli Hospital.

There are some things only the pope can do, like appoint bishops, make curial appointments or approve some major documents. But the bulk of the daily work performed by the more than 30 major offices of the Roman Curia does not need the pope's immediate supervision.

"We see the pope three times a year. So if it's a short-term hospital stay, there's virtually no effect on our work," said one member of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

The heads of a few other congregations — for doctrine, bishops and evangelization — typically meet with the pope once a week, so the pope's absence would impact them more. But, in general, the curial machinery grinds on.

"We're handling 100 letters a day out of the Secretariat of State. You'd think there might be a slowdown, but there's not," said one Vatican official.

Inside the Apostolic Palace, the five-story building that houses the papal residence and top Vatican offices, it was business as usual during the pope's fourth day in the hospital.

A few steps down the marble corridor from the pope's apartment, prelates carrying sheaves of papers hurried toward the offices of the Secretariat of State's second section, which deals with international affairs. At the elevator, a diplomat arrived for an appointment.

"The work is continuing at its usual pace. In the past, if there's something that urgently requires the pope's attention, Cardinal (Angelo) Sodano takes it to the Gemelli. In this situation, I don't know if the pope's condition allows that yet," said one official.

Cardinal Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, is the one expected to "take care of everything" until the pope returns, the official said. That presumes the pontiff is absent for a short time and is not incapacitated for a longer period.

As church law experts have pointed out, the church has no clear mechanism to deal with the situation of a pope who goes into a long coma, for example, or is otherwise "impeded," to use the church's term. It is possible the pope has prepared instructions for such an eventuality, but if so they have not been published.

The prospect of a lengthy absence seemed far from the minds of Vatican officials, even as the pope's hospital stay lengthened. While outsiders might have expected an atmosphere of crisis inside the Vatican walls, that was not in evidence.

"It seems like he's over the worst part and is improving. There's no big worry here. People are relaxed," said one highly placed monsignor.

"He'll be back in a few days and will be around for a few more years," a Swiss Guard predicted confidently.

At the Vatican typographical offices, a nun said she was convinced the pope was helped by the prayers of the world.

"It's true he is an elderly man and with all the health problems he's had the flu is not a minor thing," she said. She added something that's become a signature comment about this pope: "But he's got a very strong character."

Inside the Vatican gates, life went on: Employees lined up at the Vatican bank, pilgrims came to order papal blessings, priests and bishops arrived for meetings, and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences hosted a conference.

At the Vatican newspaper's photo office, where pilgrims order photos of papal audiences and liturgical events, there was a marked reduction in traffic. With audiences canceled indefinitely, the place was almost empty. No photos of the pope had been made available since Jan. 30, when he made his last public appearance at his apartment window for a noon blessing.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A woman touches a marble relief of Pope John Paul II at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love outside Rome Feb. 4, the third day the pope was being treated at Rome's Gemelli Hospital after being admitted with breathing difficulties.

Vatican official's comment reignites debate over papal resignation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When a top Vatican official said papal resignation should be left to the "conscience" of Pope John Paul II, it reignited a debate that has been smoldering for years.

Inside and outside the Vatican, prelates and lay experts have fallen into two camps: those who think the pope would resign if he felt he could not lead the church, and those who say it will never happen — that the pontiff has clearly decided to stay at the church's helm until God takes him.

With a weakened pope in the hospital for flu-related breathing problems, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state, was asked Feb. 7 by reporters if he thought the pope would consider resigning. He gave an answer that appeared to recognize resignation as an eventual possibility: "We have to have enormous trust in him. He knows what he should do."

For the media and papal commentators, that was enough to start the wheels turning.

No one questions whether a pope can resign: It's happened before, the last time

in 1294 when Pope Celestine V abdicated. The papal resignation option is explicitly written into the Code of Canon Law. It says a pope may step down, but stipulates that the decision must be made freely and "duly manifested."

Those are two crucial conditions and would be problematic if a pope becomes so sick that he cannot express his wishes unequivocally.

Some have suggested that Pope John Paul, who suffers from a debilitating neurological disease, may have already prepared a letter of resignation in case that happens. Pope Pius VI prepared a similar letter in his old age. But church law experts say even that kind of letter might leave some doubt, because it would be papal aides who ultimately determine when it should be implemented.

A number of cardinals have said they believed the pope would resign for the good of the church if he were unable to physically bear the burden of the papacy.

But no one has said in public that the time for resignation has come. On the contrary, Vatican officials and others have marveled at the ability of the pope to somehow carry on, year after year, even as he has lost the ability to walk, to speak clearly and to endure long audiences.

Indeed, the pope's perseverance has convinced some that he will stay in the papacy to the end.

Those close to the pope have insisted that the pope's management abilities may be of secondary importance compared to the spiritual witness he is giving.

Many Vatican officials say the pope — never much of a hands-on manager — in his present frail condition has delegated even more responsibility to selected aides.

The pope's public presence has been reduced, too. Even before his hospitalization, many of the pope's public events featured stand-ins who read the pope's talk or celebrated the liturgies for him.

For the Catholic faithful, resignation is also a sensitive issue. When asked, many of those who see the pope in action express mixed sentiments: admiration for his courage and deep concern about his ability to keep going.



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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Doctor discusses abortion

ABORTION, from page 1

would be part of my job," she said. "No one prepared you or talked about it."

One night when she came in to work, she was told by an intern that there was a patient who was terminating her pregnancy. Kennedy was responsible for inserting laminaria suppositories into the cervix, which dilates the cervix prior to delivery or a surgical abortion.

Kennedy referred to administering abortions as "scut work that was pawned off on interns" while more senior residents worked in labor and delivery.

Kennedy said she didn't know she had the option of refusing to participate in abortion procedures. None of the other doctors in the hospital, some of whom were Catholic also, talked about the ethics of abortion.

"It can be difficult to risk being criticized by others, especially in a professional setting," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life Office. "However, we are called to spread the message of Psalm 139: 'Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.'"

Like many women who have had abortions, doctors are also shamed into silence about their roles in abortion, according to Kennedy.

"I justified it by saying, 'She is someone else's patient' and told myself I was just doing my job," said Kennedy, who was raised in a pro-life Catholic family. "In my heart of hearts I felt bad about it."

Kennedy felt she had no pro-life role models in the hospital. After a while, she refused to take part in administering abortions, causing tension with her fellow residents, who had already "done their stints" and now had to perform abortions again.

A few years later, as an OB/GYN in private practice, she saw firsthand the physical and emotional aftereffects abortion had on her patients.

Kennedy recalled one of her former patients, a woman who had had several abortions prior to becoming her patient. While under her care, the patient had pre-cancerous cells removed.

"She was a young person who had gotten into a bad situation," Kennedy said. Because of her abortions and various medical procedures, "carrying a baby to term was going to be very high risk, very difficult for her."

Kennedy became frustrated, feeling like the woman was "using up her options" each time she had an abortion.

Another patient, pregnant with her first child, came to see Kennedy and was worried about her pregnancy.

"She was worried above and beyond the normal 'first-time jitters,'" said Kennedy, who later learned she had aborted a pregnancy prior to her marriage. "She was worried that because she had had an abortion, something bad was going to happen ... not that God would get her back, but from a purely medical standpoint."

According to Kennedy, women don't come to their OB/GYN and "spill their guts."

"Abortion isn't one of those things

that people are proud of or (admit) matter of factly," said Kennedy. "It was always one of those things that was a secret."

Most patients would not admit to an abortion unless they were asked directly by their doctors.

"A number of them had never shared it with their husbands," she said. "There is a lot of secrecy about (abortion). There aren't a lot of people who say 'it was the best thing I ever did.'"

What Kennedy heard more often were stories of shame, regret and guilt.

"The people I saw who came back (after having had an abortion) were always regretful and distraught," Kennedy said.

Having a family of her own prompted Kennedy to "get right" and return to her Catholic roots. She retired from private practice to raise her three children, now ages 16 months to 6 years old.

A member of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, Kennedy is now active with her parish Respect Life Committee and promotes Natural Family Planning.

NFP, the only method of birth control accepted by the Catholic Church, is based on the observance of physical signs of a woman's fertility.

"I commend Dr. Kennedy for coming forward with her story," said Nadol. "Her willingness to share her personal journey can serve as an example to witness to the sanctity of life."

"I owe it to women in honor of all the women I've taken care of and the ones that I didn't help to be 'silent no more,'" said Kennedy. "I feel like I'm doing the right thing now. I thank God I had that re-awakening."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail k.evans@charlottediocese.org.



Respect Life is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.



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Growing in faith



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Reciting the rosary

Peter Rusciollelli prays the rosary at the Pro-Life Rosary and Benediction at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Jan. 18. The annual event is held each January to commemorate Respect Life Month and to pray for an end to abortion.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gathering for life

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (rear, center) stands with youths from St. Mark Church in Huntersville and Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury at the March for Life in Washington Jan. 24.

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Kyrie Eleison

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 7

Last week we began our discussion of the Introductory Rites of the Mass. We already discussed the entrance procession, incensation of the altar, the Sign of the Cross and the celebrant's greeting. We continue our discussion of the Introductory Rites this week by examining the "Penitential Rite."

As we mentioned earlier, from beginning to end the Mass is a prayer; in fact, the highest act of prayer known to mankind, since the Mass is the worship of the Son of God unto the Father. As members of Christ's

mystical body, the Church, we participate in his perfect worship. The Mass teaches us how to pray. And the first lesson of prayer, the primary movement of the Mass, is humility.

In imitation of Christ — who humbled himself to become man; who humbled himself to take upon himself our sins; who humbled himself to undergo his passion, crucifixion and death on our behalf — we must humble ourselves. And so the Church seeks to imitate the humility of Christ by first recognizing our sins and ac-

knowledging the fact that we are sinners in desperate need of God's mercy. We must first recognize that we are empty before we can be filled. Therefore, the celebrant invites us to pause, examine our consciences in silence and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness.

During this brief moment of silence at the beginning of the Mass, we might be wondering what to think about: what I did last night; or the movie I saw last week; or what to eat for breakfast after Mass. However, we should examine our consciences, recalling particular sins, but

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



also our overall need for forgiveness and mercy for the sins we have committed and the good we have omitted, which we may have forgotten.

It is a moment to prepare our souls to abandon our old sinful habits and seek the grace and mercy that God has prepared for us in receiving his body and blood in holy Communion. If we become conscious of serious mortal sins, we should resolve to go to the sacrament of reconciliation as soon as possible and refrain from receiving holy Communion.

Although the Penitential Rite does not grant absolution for mortal sins, it does help us to receive forgiveness for our less serious, venial sins, which are forgiven when we receive holy Communion with humility and love.

After a few moments of silence, the celebrant begins a prayer, known by its first word in Latin, the Confiteor: "I confess to Almighty God" As a community, we confess that we are guilty of sins in thought, word and deed. Then, we seek the intercession of "Blessed Mary, ever Virgin," who was conceived without sin and remained sinless throughout her life; the angels, who battle with Satan and defeat evil; the saints, who were sinners like us, but cooperated with God's grace and mercy to defeat their own sinfulness; and finally, the members of the Church Militant, "and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray to the Lord our God for me."

The celebrant completes this prayer with a prayer that begs for God's mercy, seeks forgiveness and leads us to heaven.

Finally, the Penitential Rite closes with the ancient threefold litany: Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison ["Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy"]. This litany of mercy is the only surviving vestige of the Greek language remaining in the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church. Whether the Mass is offered in Latin, English, Spanish or Swahili, this Greek prayer may be recited or chanted by the celebrant, deacon or cantor.

This formula, "Lord, have mercy," really comes straight from the Gospel. Oftentimes a great healing by Christ is preceded by the humble cry of a beggar: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" That is precisely where we find ourselves at the beginning of Mass: poor beggars in need of God's mercy. And that is why we approach the throne of our Heavenly Father in humility from the very beginning.

Now that we have acknowledged our sinfulness before God and our neighbors, we can sing the biblical hymn of praise, known by its first word in Latin, The Gloria, which we will examine next week.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincoln.

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3:30	Basilica	Arrival / Welcome	Abbey Students
4:00	Basilica	Welcome	Abbot Placid/ Bishop Jugis
4:10	Basilica	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Opening talk	Fr. Matthew Kauth
4:30	Basilica-College Campus	Eucharistic Procession	Bishop Jugis
5:30	Basilica	Evening Prayer / Bishop's Address	Bishop Jugis
6:00	Basilica	Benediction	Bishop Jugis
6:15	Haid Ballroom	Informal Dinner*	all participants

*Please bring your own dinner (sack lunch style). There is no cost for this event.

Confessors will be available throughout the afternoon in the Basilica for those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance. This pilgrimage is a part of our Diocesan observance of the "Year of the Eucharist" proclaimed by our Holy Father

Note to all Youth Group and Young Adult Group Leaders:

Please respond to this invitation to let us know how many youth are planning to attend.
Please e-mail Paul Kotlowski (pjky@bellsouth.net) by Wednesday, February 23rd.

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Schools focus on 'Faith in Every Student'

SCHOOLS, from page 1

The purpose of the week was to build support and recognition for the more than 8,000 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide, including the 18 schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 30, through the entire week of travels to our schools, it was amazing to see the variety of activities taking place," said Linda Cherry, superintendent. "No matter where I was or what was going on, the spirit of our Catholic Schools was present."

Dominican Sister Glenn Anne McPhee, secretary for education at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that the theme of "Faith in Every Student" underscores two guiding principles of Catholic education — the fact that faith is an important value at the foundation of a Catholic school curriculum and that Catholic schools have faith that every student can achieve.

"Catholic school leaders are committed to making a difference," said Sister McPhee. "Our goal is to graduate students who have strong moral standards and fine academic skills who will become good citizens and able members of the workforce."

"I loved the theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week. I think that says it all," said Sandra McMonagle, principal of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem. "It (the theme) is something we really practice — we do have faith in every student."

McMonagle said Catholic students are expected to behave as Christians and follow Gospel values.

"We have high expectations for them," she said, "and we want them to succeed as best they can with their God-given abilities. They can do whatever God has given them the ability to do."

The ability to openly celebrate the Catholic faith is one unique aspect of Catholic schools. During the week, many schools held special Masses. On Feb. 3, the feast of St. Blaise, Father Thomas Kessler, pastor of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, and Father Johnathan Hanic, parochial vicar, visited the school to bless the throats of students.

At Immaculata School in Hendersonville, students placed carnations in vases in their classrooms to serve as a "symbolic remembrance" of the Indian Ocean tsunami victims. The students prayed for the victims daily, said Principal Bill Meehan.

Throughout the week, the schools celebrated the parish family, the community, the volunteers and the students,



COURTESY PHOTO BY DONNA BIRKEL

Students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem hold signs reading "Faith in Every Student," the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2005, which ran Jan. 31-Feb. 4.

and many dioceses encouraged parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools by offering open houses.

"The week calls attention to the uniqueness of our schools, and demonstrates the impact we make in our communities," said Meehan. "It gives us the opportunity to reach out and publicize."

"Service to the community is an important aspect to our Catholic schools," said Faye Almon, president of St. Patrick School's Parent Teacher Organization in Charlotte.

St. Patrick students organized a canned food drive for Catholic Social Services and collected books for a local public elementary school with a high number of low-income families. St. Patrick fifth-graders delivered the books and read to

the school's younger students.

At Our Lady of Mercy School, students helped deliver food for Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army, as well as baked and delivered cookies to a local nursing home. At Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, students delivered baked goods to local fire fighters, police and emergency services personnel and took Valentine's Day presents to residents at Maryfield Nursing Home.

The first annual Catholic Schools Week was in 1974, and became part of The National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools in 1991, a joint effort by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the USCCB.

"Catholic education is one of the

great and generous works of the church," said Michael J. Guerra, NCEA president. "Our graduates have become leaders of this country, teachers, religious men and women and business entrepreneurs. Without a doubt, our schools have had a far-reaching impact on shaping the world."

"We truly appreciate our students and our responsibility as leaders, to ensure that the faith within them stays alive and grows while they are in our Catholic schools," said Cherry.

National Appreciation Day was established to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to the country. A delegation of more than 150 Catholic school students, teachers and parents visited Capitol Hill in Washington to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools Feb. 2.

The delegation hand-delivered letters from chief administrators of Catholic education to their representatives and provided a background package on Catholic schools to every congressional office.

"Catholic Schools weeks is a way to remind us of the value of a Catholic education and the impact that it can have on a child's life," said Paola Scilinguo, director of advancement at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville.

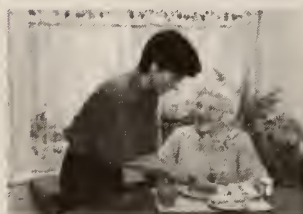
"If we continue to have faith in every student, then we can be sure that each and every one of them will reach their full potential, and we will be changing the world one student at a time," said Scilinguo.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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Faith and fun at St. Leo School

Outreach project, special visitors highlight CSW

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — A living rosary, a blessing of the throats, special Masses, visits from a congresswoman and an appearance on the local news made for a fun and meaningful Catholic Schools Week at St. Leo the Great School.

While the theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week, "Faith in Every Student," was celebrated with a different emphasis each day, an ongoing outreach project that truly defined the week's theme.

The "Blanket Our Community" project started during the week and continues through Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Donated by school families, a collection of blankets — many already lining the halls of the school — will be donated to local homeless people.

"The students understand that faith is expressed through service to others," said Principal Georgette Schraeder.

"We have used the 'Faith in Every Student' theme throughout the year with collections for the military in Iraq, tsunami victims, those suffering from natural disasters, as well as with our regular Christmas, Easter and Caring Friends outreach efforts," she said.

Visits from Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC 5th) and Judith Marsh, a Department of Veterans Af-

fairs Representative, highlighted "With Our Community" Day Jan. 31.

When asked by a student about her favorite subject in school, Foxx replied that it was reading and English.

"You can do anything you want if you can read," she said.

Presented with a book of prayers from the students, Foxx said she would ask the congressional chaplain if he would read one of the prayers at the opening of the congressional session, thereby securing its place in the permanent record.

A gift of "Valentines for Vets" drew the attention of the local media which featured the school in a segment on the evening news. Marsh, who had previously visited the school on Veterans Day in November 2004, returned to accept the Valentine gifts made by students for patients in nearby veterans' hospitals.

Marsh also accepted a large hand-printed flag made by the eighth-grade class after the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedies.

"With Our Community" Day also included a student presentation about the life of St. John Bosco and a clown show by Timothy Kiefer, a N.C. School of the Arts student. John Egan, a youth minister at St. Leo the Great Church, explained that St. John Bosco, the patron of clowns, actors and performers, was devoted to the welfare of youths. The saint would captivate his young audiences with his clown



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Father Thomas Kessler, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, blesses the throat of seventh-grader Jennie Wittmer at St. Leo the Great School on the feast of St. Blaise, Feb. 3, during Catholic Schools Week.

performances and include Gospel teachings as part of his act.

Dino Gaudio, assistant coach of men's basketball at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, visited the school for "With Our Students" Day Feb. 1.

Gaudio spoke to students about how to achieve success in their lives. His three key ingredients were to care about other people, have pride in what you do and deal with difficulties and adversities in life — don't try to avoid them, he said, but expect them.

He also told students that their names are the most important things

that they own, that all relationships are based on trust and that their role models are not Britney Spears or Michael Jordan, "but the people who sit with you at the dinner table each night."

The remainder of Catholic Schools Week included a living rosary on "With Our Nation" Day Feb. 2; a blessing of the students' throats on the feast of St. Blaise, and a lunch and dinner gatherings for "With Our Families" Day Feb. 3; and a Mass and visit from Superintendent Linda Cherry in celebration of "With Our Clergy, Faculty and Staff" Day Feb. 4.

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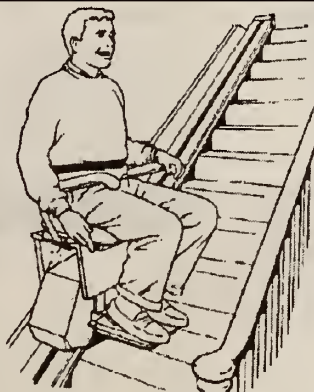
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COURTESY PHOTO

Fun, crafts at OLM School

Students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem create masks during Student Appreciation Day Feb. 2 as part of Catholic Schools Week. Also during the day, middle school students volunteered in the community and then spent the afternoon bowling. Fourth- and fifth-grade students went roller skating, while younger students went to the school theater.



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Drumming up faith



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Musician Billy Jonas guides Asheville Catholic School students in playing percussion instruments fashioned from cans, containers and other items on Feb. 4 during Catholic Schools Week.

Speakers, performers educate, entertain at Asheville Catholic

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — A variety of speakers and performers entertained students at Asheville Catholic School for Catholic Schools Week.

James Mullen Jr., chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, was one of the speakers at the all-school assembly Jan. 31. Mullen, a Catholic, encouraged the students to "take lessons learned in Catholic school and take them into the community."

Other speakers included Robert Gabordi, editor of the *Asheville Citizen-Times* and representatives of Our Place, a home for abused children that

is assisted by student volunteers from Asheville Catholic School.

Poet Glenis Redmon entertained the students Feb. 1 and discussed how she crafts her poetry. Billy Jonas, a musician who visited the school in December, returned Feb. 4 with his unique style of music and comedy.

Working with fourth- and fifth-graders, Jonas guided the students in crafting and playing percussion instruments made from large garbage cans, industrial-sized plastic containers and other objects.

Other Catholic Schools Week activities included student skits about their parishes and teachers, and a musical performance.

Saintly skit



COURTESY PHOTO

John Egan, a youth minister at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, and Timothy Kiefer, a N.C. School of the Arts student, perform a skit about the life of St. John Bosco, the patron of clowns, actors and performers, at St. Leo the Great School during Catholic Schools Week. Egan explained that St. John Bosco was devoted to the welfare of youths, and that the saint would captivate his young audiences with his clown performances and include Gospel teachings as part of his act.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Emphasis on the Catholic faith and religious activities, such as Mass, is a unique part of the Catholic school environment. Special Masses and other religion-themed events were scheduled at schools throughout the Diocese of Charlotte as part of Catholic Schools Week.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Students at Charlotte Catholic High School listen to Bishop Peter J. Jugis' homily during a school-wide Mass Feb. 3. The Mass, which was celebrated during Catholic School-Week, featured a choir from St. Ann School.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin celebrated Mass at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville Feb. 2 as part of Catholic Schools Week. Pictured are (from left) Richard Valittuto, student council president; Father Joe Kelleher, retired; Bishop Curlin; Linda Cherry, superintendent; Msgr. Joseph Showfety, retired; Jennifer Williams and Erica Sickelbaugh, students.

Below: Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, talks to students at St. Matthew School about religion and vocations Jan. 31.



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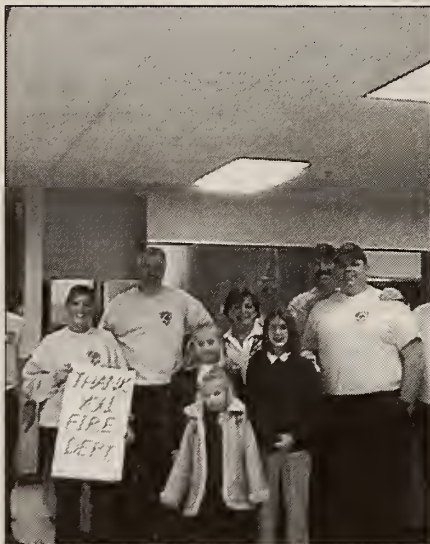
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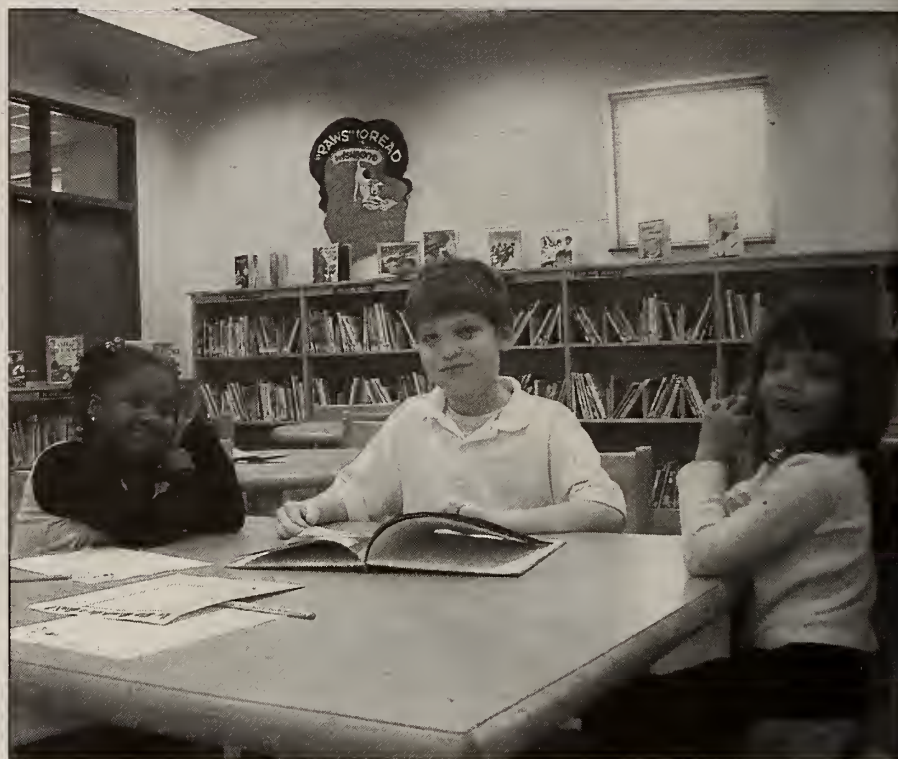


COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Fifth-grader Perusi Benson and first-grader Brady Johnson were among the students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point making Valentine's Day cards for residents of Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point and the veteran's hospital in Salisbury Feb. 2 as part of Catholic Schools Week. Right: Firefighters from Fire Station 13 in High Point receive a "thank you" card and homemade desserts from Immaculate Heart of Mary School students Jan. 31. School representatives are (clockwise from bottom) kindergartener Lauren Soltis, third-grader Olivia Herschel, parent Vicki Owen and sixth-grader Alissa Terpedino.



Service to the community is an important aspect in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. Students took part in numerous outreach and community-oriented projects as part of Catholic Schools Week. Many of the projects are ongoing.



COURTESY PHOTO

A student from St. Patrick School in Charlotte reads to students at Westerly Hills Elementary School in Charlotte Feb. 1 as part of a school service project for Catholic Schools Week. St. Patrick School students also collected new and gently used books and delivered them to Westerly Hills Elementary.

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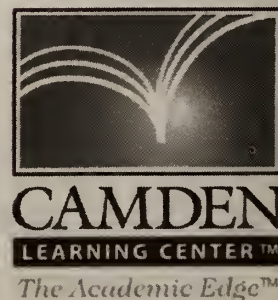
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Two books — one negative, one positive — explore pope's life

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM G. YEARLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Reading "The Pontiff in Winter: Triumph and Conflict in the Reign of John Paul II" by John Cornwell (the author of the best seller, "Hitler's Pope") is like watching someone knock down an old man and give him a few kicks for good measure. The observer is horrified but fascinated. "The Pontiff in Winter" is mean-spirited, sloppily edited and repetitive.

The book begins with a quick biographical sketch of the pope's childhood and adulthood leading up to his elevation to the papacy. Then in loose chronological order, Cornwell lays out the various social questions and political

the fact that no pope in modern history has resigned and that the idea of retirement to this pope is abhorrent, no matter how ill he becomes.

The editing of "The Pontiff in Winter" is so sloppy that it makes plain the haste in which the book was rushed to publication. For example, Cornwell's reaction to the revelation of the "third secret of Fatima" is brought up once and then, strangely, restated a hundred pages later in almost the same wording. The short chapters dealing with various problems read like short articles written for other publications and hastily shoved into book form.

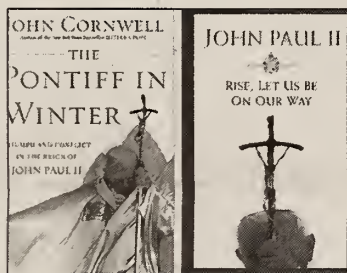
After "Hitler's Pope" — Cornwell's book on Pope Pius XII and the Nazis — it seems a wonder anyone at the Vatican would let Cornwell sit at a major ceremony no more than 10 feet from the pope, musing on how ill and feeble he looks, knowing those musings would show up in print.

The Holy Father's own book, "Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way," is his second volume of autobiography and meditation, covering the years from 1958, when he was made a bishop, to his elevation to the papacy in 1978.

The first book, "Gift and Mystery," contained perhaps more dramatic portions of his life — his brief acting career, the Nazi occupation of Poland, and his secret seminary training during the war years. But this volume charts his development as a bishop and archbishop, periods that are more crucial to understanding his papacy.

Pope John Paul comes off as a Polish Will Rogers; he never seems to have met a priest or religious or lay person he didn't like. Only the communist governments of the Eastern bloc get the cold shoulder and, then, no individuals are named. When the names of Polish bishops, nuns and priests, unknown to most, become stultifying, the meditations on the episcopacy, St. Joseph and modern saints reawaken readers to the fact that Pope John Paul is a man of profound faith and a writer of memorable prose.

Yearley studies theology at the Ecumenical Institute of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.



situations Pope John Paul II has dealt with (or refused to deal with): communism, religious oppression, pluralism, materialism, women as priests, sexuality, ecumenism, to name a few.

In every case, Cornwell finds Pope John Paul's response either wrong-headed or callously dismissive. However, the relentless negativity numbs the reader to the moments where Cornwell's outrage is appropriately incisive.

For example, on the pope's opposition to the use of condoms, even in the face of the rapid spread of AIDS in Africa, Cornwell's comments have a Swifteen anger and power. In other places, Cornwell seems to fault the pope for not adopting his agenda — that of a liberal Western Catholic — when Pope John Paul has made it clear that the liberal Western agenda is not his.

Cornwell seems particularly irked that the pope has not resigned as his health declines. He seems oblivious to

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 20, 2005

Feb. 20, Second Sunday of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
- 2) 2 Timothy 1:8b-10
- 3) Matthew 17:1-9

God has a plan for everyone

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

About 18 months ago, my husband and I were immersed in the emotionally and physically draining activities of burying my mother-in-law and taking our oldest daughter out of state to begin college. For us "40-somethings," returning home after those few whirlwind days and settling back into a routine was a welcome respite.

Then came the morning when I casually remarked for the umpteenth time, "I really wish I were beginning my doctorate" — and my husband replied, "Then why don't you?"

Five months later I was applying to university programs, and six months after that we were packing up the family and all our belongings to move to Ohio after more than 40 years of living in Texas. (If that wasn't crazy enough, imagine going back to college after 20 years away from it!)

The amazing circumstances and events that accompanied our move are too numerous to mention, but they confirmed in many ways that God indeed was directing our steps, no matter how fearful I felt or how outlandish I thought our decision was at times. Indeed, I could completely identify with today's Genesis story!

In both the Abram narrative and Matthew's account of the Transfiguration, God clearly is telling or showing people a vision by which they are to come to a deeper understanding of their role in the divine scheme of things. As bizarre as these revelations must have seemed, God, knowing human frailty, accompanied them either with providential signs or the words, "Don't be afraid."

Abram was encouraged to experience God's presence in the moment. Only then, reassured, was he able to leave Haran for a land he did not know, just as Jesus' transfigured presence empowered the disciples to descend the mountain with him toward a series of events they could not have anticipated.

Sure, there are still times I find myself wondering: "Why me? Why now?" I certainly haven't been shown the entire vision for my future, how the completed doctoral degree will fit into the picture or the specific ways I will be called to serve God and others.

Nevertheless, strengthened by God's provision and peace, I am certain that, for the present, I am where I need to be. For it is in the present that God's sustaining "presence" is found.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13-19

Sunday (First Sunday in Lent), Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Roman 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; **Monday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius),** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Seven Founders of the Servite Order),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Ester's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20-26

Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; **Monday (St. Peter Damian),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (The Chair of St. Peter),** 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

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Professor examines Hollywood's depiction of Muslims and Arabs

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Hollywood depiction of Muslims and Arabs has taken a decidedly more ambivalent tone in the past half-century, according to Lourdes Alvarez, an assistant professor of modern languages at The Catholic University of America.

"Political events and shifts in American perceptions of the Middle East" have played a large role in the shift from what had been a more benign and respectful treatment of Islam, Alvarez said in a Feb. 1 presentation at Catholic University.

Now, she said, there are "ubiquitous Hollywood representations of the Middle East as a place of religious extremism, violence and terrorism."

In an earlier era, when "the United States was not yet dependent on foreign oil and thus not yet vulnerable to fluctuations in price or supply, the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, and the subsequent war with its Arab neighbors, made fantasy films about the Orient a much less marketable prospect at the box office," Alvarez said in her presentation, "Thieves of Baghdad: Hollywood Revisits the Arabian Nights."

"As the Middle East loomed ever larger in strategic importance to the United States, as Middle Eastern interests were increasingly perceived to be in conflict with those of the United States, Hollywood portrayals became more negative," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said there are three distinct types of Hollywood films with Arabs and Islam at their center:

— Stories based on "The Arabian Nights," also known as the "1,001 Nights."

— "Sheik" films ranging from the Rudolph Valentino silent-era classics to "Lawrence of Arabia," whose protagonists are "Westerners who have adopted Arab ways and are now on some level more Arab than the Arabs," said Alvarez.

— Arabian action films along the lines of "Raiders of the Lost Ark," in which, Alvarez said, "there aren't really any Arabs."

The tales have also spawned a variety of cartoon representations, including the 1992 Disney animated film "Aladdin," whose \$200 million box-office take was the highest up to that time for an animated picture.

Alvarez noted that 18th-century Frenchman Antoine Galland looked for additional tales to flesh out "The Arabian Nights." As a result, two of the most famous stories — "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp" — are of dubious scholarship as they are not found in any of the early manuscripts.

"Arabian Nights" films "present a more varied array of characters" than their sheik or action counterparts, Alvarez said. "There are good and bad Arabs here." The movies also tend to portray both positives and negatives about Arab culture, she said.

On the positive side is "the idea of the East as a repository of ancient knowledge or wisdom, of values that have been lost in the West," Alvarez added, while on the negative side, "the East is portrayed as a place of ignorance, credulity, corruption,

'Winn-Dixie' satisfies kids, adults



CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

AnnaSophia Robb and a dog named Winn-Dixie star in "Because of Winn-Dixie," a gentle and disarming story based on an award-winning best-seller. The film is beautifully acted and imparts a heart-tugging message about people's loneliness and need to connect, making satisfying entertainment for adults as well as children. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

savagery and decadence."

Comparing the evolution of the Hollywood Western with the Hollywood "Eastern" — Alvarez's term for Arabian-themed movies — Arab characters have moved from a more benign persona to an evil persona, while American Indian characters have done the opposite.

"As time passed and memories of the brutal clashes of the 19th century faded, Indians were no longer perceived as

threatening to U.S. interests. Westerns begin depicting Indians as more noble, as the possessors of ancient spiritual truths that have been forgotten by modern civilization," she added.

"You even get a film like 'Dances With Wolves,' which features Kevin Costner adopting Indian ways, not altogether unlike those early Valentino films in which Westerners adopt the rugged lifestyle of the desert," she noted.

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A DAB WILL DO IT

Pro golfer attributes healing to Lourdes water

Free books offered to asthma, allergy sufferers

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

HENDERSONVILLE — People might say Ron Garcia has many blessings for which to be thankful.

Between 1970 and 1982, the professional golfer won 16 Florida Winter Tournaments and other mini tours; set five course records, at least three of which are still intact; made the longest hole-in-one in 1974; and shot a double eagle using a driver and an eight-iron on a 511-yard par 5.

Despite his achievements on the green, Garcia said it is a spiritual experience that is his greatest success story. And he wants to share it with others.

"It's a powerful avenue to pray to the Blessed Mother for intercessions," said Garcia. "I think my faith in that is

why I received this blessing."

Garcia, a life member of the Professional Golfer's Association, had suffered from debilitating asthma and year-round allergies since his youth. For years, he had to use medicines that made him "lethargic and irritable," and were possibly generating glaucoma in his eyes.

In what he described as "spur of the moment" in 1995, Garcia tried something different, something divine, to cure him of his ailments.

And it worked.

"My allergist said she had no explanation for it," said Garcia. "Well, I do."

Garcia had acquired a small bottle of water from Lourdes, France. The pamphlet cautioned that while some people who used the water were cured of their ailments, many others were not.



FILE PHOTO BY DIANE RIGGS

Ron Garcia holds the bottle of Lourdes water from which he believes God healed him of asthma and almost all of his former allergies.

But after putting the water on his nose and cheeks, he received a "tremendous blessing." The asthma and allergies immediately went away, he said.

"It is really important to me that it's understood I never had asthma again," said Garcia.

However, approximately four months later, the allergies came back.

"I was shocked, confused," he said.

Garcia was forced back on the allergy medicine. But in May 1996, he used a second application of the Lourdes' water.

Since then, he takes the allergy medicines only two months of the year. Doctors who examined Garcia's lungs a few years ago told him he has the lung capacity of a 25 year old.

"I'm healthier now than when I was 16 years old," he said.

A cradle Catholic born and raised near Pittsburgh, Garcia grew up dedicated to his faith, attributing this to his parents and education by the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

He was fascinated with the appearances of Mary at Fatima, Guadalupe and especially Lourdes.

The miracle of Lourdes began in 1858, when Mary appeared 18 times to

Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto near Lourdes. Mary told the girl to dig in the grotto and a spring appeared. Many people have had illnesses cured by the spring's waters, including the 66 cures deemed miraculous by a church-appointed medical board, according to Catholic News Service.

While drawn to Lourdes, Garcia saw no way to travel to southern France. Then a flyer advertising Lourdes water came in the mail from the Franciscan Mission Associates in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

"I sent for it immediately," he said, but did not apply it right away. "I sort of saw it for life-threatening experiences."

It was six months before he made the first application in 1995. Now, as a result of his healing, Garcia, who currently works as a professional trader of stocks and bonds, describes himself as "more Catholic than ever."

"The appearances of Mary are a cornerstone of my faith," he said. "God obviously wants us to pray to Blessed Mary to intercede for us with Christ."

Compelled to share his experience of being healed by God and his own family's "five decades of interaction with the Blessed Mother," Garcia wrote a book titled "Another Blessing from Lourdes." To celebrate both the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Feb. 11 and the 10 years since his religious experience, Garcia is giving away 10 free copies of his book.

"I would prefer to give them away to people with asthma and allergies ... because there is a lot of valuable information for them," he said. "But, the book offers more than that."

There are four personal stories in the book — Garcia's religious experience with the Lourdes water, his mother's experience with the Blessed Mother, his sister's death and his hole-in-one story.

Garcia said his book shows that the power of Mary and Lourdes, and the Catholic faith, are alive and well.

"We've had some terrible things happen in the Catholic Church, but I'm proud of my church," he said. "My book shows that the Catholic faith is as strong as it ever was."

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FROM THE COVER

Experts discuss brain death

DEATH, from page 1

activity might not indicate the actual death of the person.

"Brain death is not death," said U.S. Dr. Paul Byrne, former president of the Catholic Medical Association.

In a brain-dead patient, "the heart beats, the body is warm, vital organs like the liver and kidney are functioning and there is respiration, albeit supported" by a mechanical ventilator, he said during a Feb. 3-4 meeting sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Pope John Paul II called for the special

meeting "in order to re-study the signs of death and verify at a purely scientific level the validity of the criterion of brain death," said the chancellor of the academy, Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo.

In 1985 and again in 1989, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences upheld brain death as "the true criterion for death, given that the complete cessation of cardiorespiratory functions leads very quickly to brain death," the bishop said in introductory remarks to the meeting.

Bishop Sanchez said the academy "invited those who are critical" of the Vatican's current position on brain death and organ donation in order to hear their arguments and determine

whether there is enough new material to warrant another more formal gathering.

A just balance

The Vatican wants to maintain a "virtuous and just" balance between the two immoral extremes of hastening someone's death and refusing to allow someone to die, he said.

The bishop said people should not impose "death (euthanasia) even with the aim of saving another's life through transplantation," nor should they over-use life-support machines, which the pope has defined as "persistent or aggressive medical treatment."

In an Aug. 28, 2000, speech to an international congress on transplantation, the pope, too, cautiously endorsed total brain death as an indicator of a

potential organ donor's death.

In that speech, he agreed with the consensus of the scientific community that "the complete and irreversible cessation of all brain activity (in the cerebrum, cerebellum and brain stem) if rigorously applied, does not seem to conflict with the essential elements of anthropology."

But some doctors and philosophers debate whether a brain-dead patient is truly dead. The definition is important, they say, because if the person is in some way alive or his condition is reversible, then the removal of vital organs for transplant is tantamount to homicide.

"Organs are taken while a person is still alive," Stuart Youngner, head of the Department of Bioethics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said.

Otherwise organs such as the heart, lungs and liver would no longer be viable for transplantation, he said, because when an individual's heart and breathing have stopped organs and tissues begin to degenerate.

Some organs "like the heart, lungs and liver deteriorate so quickly they must be obtained from living bodies," said Dr. David Hill, a British anesthetist.

But whether a living body without a functioning brain is equivalent to a living person was the crux of the meeting's debates.

Human rights

"Human zygotes, human blastocysts and human embryos do not have a brain or brain function," but the church considers these very early stages of a human embryo to still be a human with the right to life, said Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Neb.

The bishop even called into question the morality of organ donation.

"In vitro fertilizations, gamete transfer techniques and similar undertakings have been clearly taught as immoral, married couples having been told very clearly that there is no intrinsic right to have children," he wrote.

"Similarly, it may be necessary to determine from a moral as well as canonical point of view whether there is a right to have donated organs from other human beings inserted into one's body," he said.

French Dr. Didier Houssin said that the phenomenon of brain death has "resulted from the progress of emergency medical care."

Massive head trauma or a brain hemorrhage and resulting brain damage today no longer always result in immediate death because "modern medical techniques" of ambulatory and intensive care provide for rapid reanimation, he said in his presentation.

The body of a brain-dead patient appears alive because of sophisticated life support measures, such as artificial ventilation, he said.

But brain death brought with it the possibility for new life through organ donation, he said.

Taking the living organs from a brain-dead patient is "an act of generosity and gives sense to the brutal and unacceptable end of the deceased for its grieving family," he wrote.

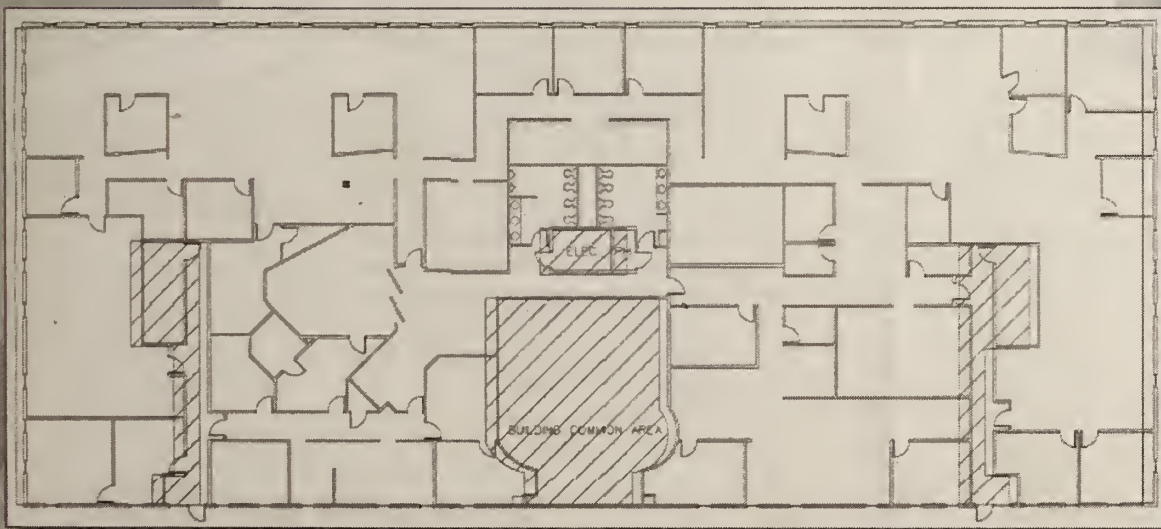
Using organs after brain death is an example of solidarity that entails the "acceptance of death after intense lifesaving efforts" and the will "to fight for the life of patients waiting for an organ transplant," he said.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Catholic Schools Week: 'Faith in Every Student'

Theme captures truth that God gifts children

I recall the scene so vividly. I was preparing to celebrate Mass with the fifth-graders at Sacred Heart School in Quincy, Mass. In my approach to the altar, I was impressed deeply by the multicolored banner that the youngsters had fashioned for the faith-filled festivities. Its message was both simple and sublime. Beneath the image of a resplendent rainbow were etched the words, "I believe in God because of rainbows."

So often I have reflected upon that childlike profession of faith. As my life has unfolded, I have been impressed more and more by the wisdom contained in that statement of belief. All of us can acknowledge unhesitatingly that we believe in God because of rainbows. After all, from a visual perspective, the rainbow consists of a series of colors standing together there complementarily.

Who can deny that our faith is a dynamic, evolving reality? What one of us would not agree that word, worship and witness blend together so that our faith might become living, conscious and active? Isn't it true that parents, teachers and other caring people have enabled us, by their selfless generosity, to discover the passionate presence of God in our lives?

Each of these experiences and relationships blends together, like the colors of a rainbow, to point beyond themselves to the divine. So often the extraordinary is made apparent in the ordinary, the truly significant is contained within the seemingly insignificant.

Day after day as children and youth participate in the graced environment of the Catholic school, they are enabled to recognize and appreciate the gift of faith and challenged to perform acts of faith. In short, from that two-fold perspective, the theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week, "Faith in Every Student," captures succinctly the comforting and challenging truth that the children and youth are both gifted by God and called to be gifts to others.

Long before the blessed event at Sacred Heart School, I was the beneficiary of a memorable message from my mother. Shortly after my graduation from Cathedral High School in Boston, she shared an insight that I continue to treasure. She said,

Guest Column

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST



"Jimmy, remember your roots, remember that you are related, dependent and responsible."

Every Catholic School, if it is to be true to its identity and mission, must echo in action that sentiment shared with me 50 years ago. How, then, might that school be described?

It is a grace-filled environment within which its participants are assisted to cultivate their identity as God's children.

It is a setting within which they are guided to remember their roots, as they come to a deeper appreciation of the truth that their lives are rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

It is a unique context within which they are enabled to appreciate that they are related to God and neighbor.

They are dependent upon the love of their Father in Heaven and responsible for being attentive and responsive to the needs of their neighbors.

The Diocese of Charlotte is blessed beyond measure by the devotion and dedication of so many administrators and teachers who, together with parents, are attentive to Faith in Every Student.

Father Hawker is vicar of education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

What made the fallen angels' choice 'irrevocable'?

Q. My question arises not only from my own curiosity, but from my children. I realize no one can say whether or not anyone is in hell, since we have no window into God's mercy. But I don't understand this "irrevocable choice" of the angels, which the Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of (No. 393).

What made it irrevocable? Why was there no turning back? (Illinois)

A. It is Catholic teaching, going back centuries, that some angels sinned against their Creator in such a grave way that they lost their presence with God forever. This belief is rooted most of all in numerous Scriptural passages, both Old and New Testament, such as Satan falling from heaven (Luke 10:18), being driven from heaven (Rev 12), and "the devil and his angels" occupying a place apart from God, where those who reject our Lord's command of love and service to neighbor are destined to go (Matt 25:41).

Apart from this, and that we humans enjoy the guardianship of some angels, we know little or nothing about details of the angels' nature and fate. Our information comes almost entirely from philosophical reasoning about what pure spirits must be like, and from the — often obscure — references in the Scriptures.

Endless theological guesses have tried to identify what their sin may have been, but there is general agreement that somehow it involved a grievous offense of pride against God. If angels, as Christians believe, have no body or bodily functions and passions like ours, they are simply incapable of many of the immoral actions we humans are prone to.

This begins to address your question about how angelic sin could be irrevocable. One of the consequences of the angels being pure spirits would be that their intelligence and will functions quite differently from ours. They would not seem subject to all the limitations and weaknesses of mind that afflict human beings, especially considering the consequences of "original sin."

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Whatever our original fault may have been exactly (the catechism calls it "sin" only in an analogical sense), or precisely how it came about, the natural limits that our human nature places on us are worsened by the fact that this nature is somehow wounded. We are inclined to stumble, fall, misjudge and see so many circumstances only partially and darkly. All of us have plenty of personal experience of this sightlessness and frailty.

As the catechism notes, quoting Vatican Council II, our weak situation extends even "to the negative influence exerted on people by communal situations and social structures that are the fruit of men's sins." (No. 407; Church in the Modern World, 37)

Apparently none of this infirmity and partial blindness would apply to angels. Because of their nature, their intellects not being clouded as ours are, their knowledge would be more immediate and encompassing, their decisions more definitive. They would, so to speak, become aware of nothing "tomorrow" that they didn't know today.

In other words, there would be no surprises in the consequences of their rejection of intimate friendship with God, no new insights or wonder to bring them to repentance. It's a most interesting subject that arouses our curiosity, but I believe this is about as far as we can go in speculating about the fall of the angels.

The catechism discusses the angels' sin briefly in Nos. 391-395.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jddietzen@aol.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Lent: Finding your way into daily prayer

Prayer must be first thing scheduled, not last

When I was a young college student, I sometimes felt lonely. I would go to the beautiful old church on our campus and look at the huge white columns that reflected light from the stained-glass windows.

I would find myself wistfully day-dreaming. If only, I thought, Christ himself could step out of the shadows and come down and sit by me in this pew. I could tell him all my problems and confusion. He would understand. He would provide wise counsel, clear direction.

The memory of those moments of longing is strong. As I've grown older, I realize that what I was experiencing was a deep desire for prayer.

Although it took years, I was fortunate to develop a daily habit of prayer that continues to grow stronger. I know prayer has changed my life.

Recently I had the opportunity to interview a young Jesuit for an article in my local Catholic newspaper. He clearly illustrated the difference daily prayer can make in a person's life.

He was a West Point graduate, a bright guy with every intention of making the military his life's career. But, after a few years in the Army, something didn't feel quite right. A friend suggested he make a weekend retreat. And so he did.

Now, the retreat did not provide any bolt-of-lightning answers, no "Ah-ha!" mo-

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



ments of revelation. But within months he left the military, and not too long after that he was on the road to priesthood.

What called forth such a radical change in this man's journey?

"My prayer life began again as a result of the retreat," he told me. "I realized my deep desires had been covered up by my successes."

A daily prayer life allowed him to see the true desires God had placed in his heart.

Opening up to a life of prayer is, on the one hand, simple. If you wish to "give up" something for Lent, give up 10 or 15 minutes each day, as a beginning, to listen to God.

On the other hand, that can sound quite difficult. How does a busy young mother with babies and an erratic schedule find the right time for prayer? How do we fit silence into our noisy days? And how do we pray? How do we know whether we are listening to God or to

our own chatter instead?

For me, the first and largest hurdle was finding the right time and sticking to it. Simply hoping I would fit prayer in never worked. Prayer must be the first thing scheduled, not the last.

For me, and for many, early morning is the best time for prayer.

My soldier-turned-Jesuit friend put it well: "Morning prayer set straight my whole day."

The "how-to" of prayer can be helped along by Scripture. I had a spiritual director once who told me to pray with the day's Scripture — the daily Mass readings. Pick one, read it slowly; prayerfully ask God to show you what it might be saying to you.

A wonderful way to find help with this is at www.sacredspace.ie, a prayer site run by the Irish Jesuits. This site will guide you in a 10-minute meditation using each day's Scripture.

Creighton University's wonderful Online Ministries has a site devoted to Lenten prayer this year. Pray with them at www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent.

Perhaps the best advice was offered by another spiritual director, a no-nonsense religious sister who displayed this sign in her office: "Just do it!"

I'm sure she'd agree that Lent is a good time to begin.

Marching for life

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



PACE IS SLOW, STEADY, BUT UNRELENTING

Washington, D.C., witnessed the March for Life Jan. 24. Though it was accompanied by cold weather, thousands of marchers from around the United States descended upon the city.

The French word for "march" connotes pacing off a boundary. It also means to walk with regular steps of equal length, denoting steady advance and progress. In music, a march has a steady, even beat.

Marchers for life represent defenders of the boundaries that God advocates for preserving life. When those boundaries are overstepped, everything is "out of step"; the harmony and order necessary for excellence in life are jeopardized.

Racism is one of life's enemies. Racism violates the boundaries that safeguard human dignity and wrongs life's nobility. To deny the unborn the right to live is to assault the selfless love of God.

When euthanasia is touted as a way to end suffering, the very Christian principles that help us to understand and cope with suffering are undermined. When capital punishment is accepted as a means of curtailing violent crimes, life's endless capacity for redemption and forgiveness is ignored.

Marching for life is one of the most powerful instruments we have for keeping sight of life's sacred reality and for reminding us that when we violate God's boundaries, we violate the essence of life.

The March for Life is a slow, steady movement up Capitol Hill to the U.S. Supreme Court. The pace of the march is a reminder that winning the battle for the sanctity of life requires steadfastness.

Ironically, the Supreme Court, where the March for Life ends, lauds a symbol of perseverance in a frieze chiseled above its pillars. In it are a rabbit and a turtle; they recall Aesop's fable in which a slow, steady turtle doesn't lose spirit in a race against a quick-footed rabbit. As we know, the turtle does win, teaching us that we should never let anything break our spirit.

A march also has a unique ability to solidify people. As people march along together, their esprit d'corps soars. They are bound together as a team.

Marching for life requires that marchers put aside individualism and become a team. It is the kind of team they are that makes such a difference. This is God's team protecting God's boundaries. The role of marchers for life is to keep people from abandoning Christian values and to invite them to join the culture of life.

Your impossible dreams

Youths need to believe in themselves

"They're" coming. Are you ready? It may sound, on the surface, like a line from a bad movie about zombies. In reality, it is one of the most important questions to consider if you have big ideas and impossible dreams.

"They" are the faceless, judgmental aggregate, a gathered mass of experts you can't identify by name, affiliation or location. But you hear them within yourself and allow them to influence your most important views and decisions. "They" will tell you that you are wrong, though "they" are very rarely right themselves.

You already know their work, found in such statements as "They will think I can't sing, so I won't audition for the school musical."

The most wonderful ideas always masquerade as impossible dreams.

Personal experience has taught me that the ability to deal effectively with these unseen "authorities" can mark the difference between crossing the finish line and never even leaving the starting gate.

I try not to listen to "them" because they rarely condone or support good ideas. Popularity and common opinion can make them seem wise and all-knowing, but the truth is that they have made a shocking number of off-base predictions throughout the

years.

When I was 14, "they" said that alternative rock, like Nirvana, was just a phase. Tell that, 10 years later, to the teen-agers who still listen to bands like Green Day, Evanescence and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

"They" told two guys named Orville and Wilbur that human flight was impossible, but in 1903 the Wright brothers defied the odds at Kitty Hawk, N.C., with the first controlled airplane.

"They" told Helen Keller's parents that their daughter always would be useless, stuck in a world of silence and darkness due to her twin disabilities. Once a teacher named Anne Sullivan taught Helen to read and write, Helen went on to become one of America's most inspirational success stories.

These days, "they" are still getting it wrong.

Four years ago, "they" told Apple Inc. that nobody wanted to buy songs off of the Internet. Once folks got used to Napster and illegal downloading, "they" said nobody was going to be so silly as to pay for a song they could get by Googling it.

"They" must be singing a different tune now. Apple has quietly announced that four years after its original release date, the company's iTunes music store is handling more than 1 million downloads a day.

Coming of Age

KAREN
DIETLEIN
CNS COLUMNIST



That's more than \$990,000 every 24 hours. Not too bad for an idea that "they" originally rejected as being stupid.

"They" said polio was incurable. Two men named Salk and Sabin found a vaccine, and Americans are now basically immune to polio from their first year of life.

"They" said people never could walk on the moon. Today, walking on the moon is something we learn about in the history books.

More often than not, I've found that what seems to be distant and impossible actually is achievable if I work hard enough and believe in what I am doing. Could I have imagined, 10 years ago, that I would graduate from college? Be a reporter? Have my own place? I would have thought it was impossible at 14. I've now attained all of that, and have more dreams waiting in the wings.

If "they" are telling you that your dreams are impossible, don't listen. Instead, prove them wrong. Believe in yourself and put the pedal to the metal.

This is the way to go. Your iPod could tell you that!

Pope distributes ashes to doctors in hospital room Mass

Catholics gather for Ash Wednesday, offer prayers for pope

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Pope John Paul II invited all of his doctors to an Ash Wednesday Mass in his hospital room and personally distributed ashes to them, the Vatican newspaper said.

The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said the Feb. 9 liturgy underscored the "spiritual vigor" of the 84-year-old pontiff, who was spending his ninth day in the hospital for flu-related respiratory problems.

Placing ashes on the foreheads of the small group in his room, the pope pronounced the Lenten reminder: "You are dust and to dust you shall return." The pope received ashes from one of the concelebrants.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, visited the pope later in the day and told reporters, "I found him doing really well." He said the two had discussed the beginning of Lent in the Diocese of Rome.

The cardinal encouraged people to have "full trust" in the pope's recovery.

The Vatican said Feb. 7 the 84-year-old pontiff was improving steadily, but did not say when he could leave the hospital. The next medical bulletin was expected Feb. 10.

As Catholics, including top Vatican cardinals, gathered in St. Peter's Basilica to receive ashes at the beginning of Lent, they offered special prayers for Pope John Paul II.

U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, presided over the Feb. 9 Ash Wednesday prayer service for Pope John Paul. The cardinal told the congregation he had "the joy and honor of presiding over this solemn liturgy in the name of the Holy Father."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford receives ashes from Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, during an Ash Wednesday service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 9.

"We feel his spiritual presence among us and we remember him with affection, asking the Lord to grant him the necessary graces for his primal charism of confirming the brothers and sisters in the unity of the faith," Cardinal Stafford said.

In his homily, Cardinal Stafford said the conversion to which all people are called — especially during Lent — involves three things: "almsgiving, which is sharing; prayer, which is entrusting yourself to the Lord; and fasting, which is knowing how to place limits on yourself."

The cardinal said that obviously even the cardinals, bishops and priests who work at the Vatican "experience each day our limits and our fragility."

But almsgiving, prayer and fasting prepare the heart to receive God's grace and help each believer become a true witness of his peace in the world, the cardinal said.

Lenten guidelines

A general introduction to the season

Lent is the season the Catholic Church gives us to review our lives, to root out all that is not good and true and replace it with the faithful and the holy. In these 40 days, the Catholic Church turns to the ancient penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. These practices remain as rich and life-giving in the year 2005 as they were when practiced by the early Christians and by our Jewish forbearers.

Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God, which no worldly thing can satisfy. Almsgiving reminds us that love of God and love of neighbor are inextricably intertwined, and that we bear responsibility for each other. Prayer reminds us to center our lives on God who alone gives meaning to all we do.

The liturgies and devotions of Lent call us to a kind of spiritual "spring cleaning," identifying relationships that are disordered and sins that imprison and then seeking forgiveness and healing. We root out the darkness of sin so as to enter the Easter mysteries with a clean heart bathed in the healing, life-giving light of Christ.

Guidelines for Lent

1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

2) Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9, and Good Friday, March 25, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3) The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

4) Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock

soups or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

5) The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6) Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all-American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

7) Children who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence should be raised in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8) The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter. Group reconciliation services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group reconciliation service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

9) The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

10) Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

11) The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The Rite of Election is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

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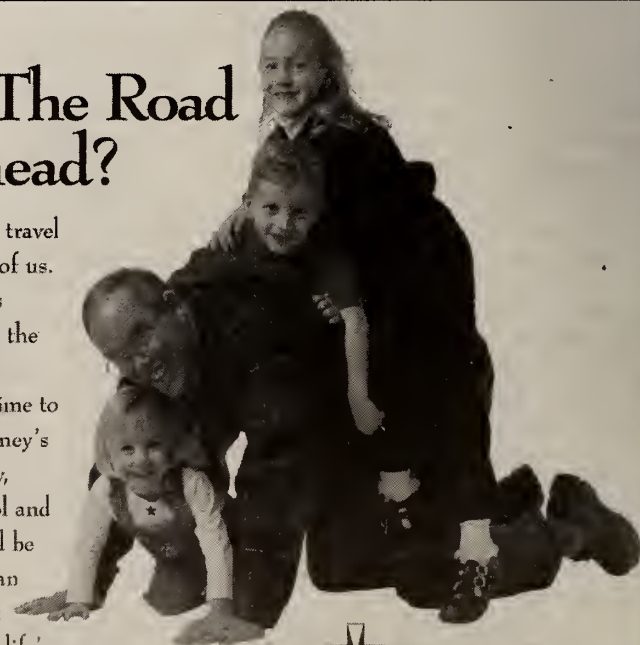
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To receive a free booklet "How To Make A Will That Works" contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gnrhodes@charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Understanding the
Mystery of the Mass,
Part 8

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FEBRUARY 18, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 20

Less is more: For many, pope is still leading, but in a different way

POPE SHOWS THERE IS STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS, MANY SAY

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's 10-day hospitalization for breathing problems has raised new questions about the ability of a pope to govern from a sick bed.

At the same time, it has highlighted Pope John Paul's own recent focus on the special forms of Christian witness offered by the sick and the elderly.

See POPE, page 13

Our Lady of Lourdes youths fast for Catholic Relief Services

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

MONROE — While their friends were eating veggie pizza and going to the movies, six members of the youth group from Our Lady of Lourdes Church spent 24 hours fasting from food and feasting on increased knowledge and em-

See FAST, page 5

Hungry for a higher purpose



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Members of the Our Lady of Lourdes Church youth group and their advisors attempt to untangle themselves during an icebreaker as part of Food Fast, a 24-hour hunger-awareness program. The youth group took part in the fast Feb. 11-12.

A project of love and hospitality



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

First-graders in Jo Ann Rich's class at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte show their handmade valentines to a news camera Feb. 11. The first-grade class helped make this year's Valentine's Day a little less lonely for patients and their family members staying at Hospitality House, which provides boarding for family members of patients. The class' project made the local news. "We made valentines for people who are sick," said first-grader Mariel Green. "We hope they like our cards and are happy." For more on how Catholic schools are reaching out, see page 9.

GENERATING HOPE

Adult stem-cell breakthrough seen weakening case for embryonic cells

BY DONIS TRACY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

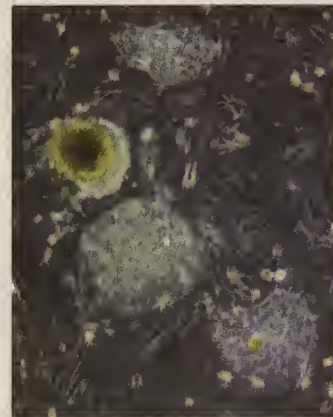
BOSTON — Researchers at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston have identified adult stem cells that may have the capacity to repair and regenerate all tissue types in the body, which experts say weakens the case for

embryonic stem-cell research.

"This discovery represents a major breakthrough in stem-cell therapy," said Dr. Douglas Losordo, chief of cardiovascular research at St. Elizabeth's.

"Based on our findings, we believe these newly discovered

See STEM CELLS, page 12



CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

A microscopic view shows a colony of undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells.

Moving on to self-sufficiency

DSA helps shelter for pregnant, homeless women

| PAGE 6

Perspectives

The case of Terri Schiavo;
Lent in the Media Age

| PAGES 14-15

Bundle of joy

Priest finds premature newborn at church door

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SZ24 P3

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HAVE SNOWMOBILE, WILL TRAVEL



CNS PHOTO BY ANNA BAUM, THE COMPASS

For the last 17 years, Father Charles Brooks, pastor of St. Edward Church in Mackville, Wis., has been riding in the annual MS Snowmobile Classic Tour, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He and eight other members of St. Edward's took to the road Feb. 4 for Watersmeet, Mich., and two days of snowmobiling 100 to 150 miles a day to raise pledges to find a cure for multiple sclerosis.

Priest snowmobiles to benefit multiple sclerosis fund

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — For most people, snowmobiling is a sport that costs money — with some new sleds selling for more than \$10,000. For an eastern Wisconsin priest, however, snowmobiling is a way to make money.

For the past 17 years, Father Charles Brooks, pastor of St. Edward Church in Mackville, has been riding in the annual MS Snowmobile Classic Tour in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He and eight other members of St. Edward's went off Feb. 4 to Watersmeet, Mich., for two days of snowmobiling 100 to 150 miles a day to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In the past 17 years, Father Brooks alone has raised \$167,000. This year more than 128 snowmobilers participated in the tour, raising some \$225,000.

"First of all, I had a sister, Theresa Kemkes, who had MS for 44 years," said Father Brooks. "She was in a wheelchair for 42 of those years."

This isn't the only event for which Father Brooks has ridden his sled. In the 1980s and 1990s, he was well known locally for his 24-hour Enduros for Life to raise funds for pro-life causes. In 1987 he set a world record of 1,409 miles in 24

hours on one sled. That didn't count the miles he put in on a back-up sled while his primary snowmobile was being hastily repaired.

The priest, 67, has also ridden motorcycles and jet skis for his Enduros fund-raiser, but his main love is the snowmobile.

"I'm one of the pioneers in snowmobiling, at least locally," he said. "I got my first snowmobile in 1968, when I was (associate pastor) at St. Gabriel's in Neenah. I kept it out behind the garage."

Over the years, he has had his share of spills and cold weather — he said he has been out in temperatures as low as 41 degrees below zero — but he has never broken any bones. He did suffer a compound dislocation of a finger, but claims to have "a skeleton of steel."

Father Brooks said he can no longer handle 24 hours straight on a snowmobile.

"Unless you do 500 miles regularly, you get pretty stiff in the shoulder muscles," he said.

But he plans to continue his snowy rides. After all, he points out, the regulars in the MS tour range in age from their teens to their 70s.

"I'm one of the oldest," he admitted, "but not the oldest!"

Commemorative book about diocese to be published; writers sought

CHARLOTTE — To observe its 35th anniversary, the Diocese of Charlotte will create a commemorative book of diocesan history, spiritual reflections and photographs.

The book, which does not yet have a title, will be available in the fall 2006. Editions du Signe of Strasbourg, France will publish the book.

To be designed as a "coffee table" book, the commemorative edition will feature a history of the diocese and color photographs of the people and parishes that have shaped Catholic life in western North Carolina since the diocese's founding in 1972. Catholics in the diocese will be invited to submit stories or spiritual reflections for publication.

"We hope to create an attractive large-format book that is filled with stories and pictures depicting the history and faith of the Catholic people of western North Carolina, and to increase spiritual awareness among Catholics and non-Catholics," said

David Hains, director of communications and project manager for the book.

According to Hains, the book will focus on stories and reflections on the following topics: inspiring stories of faith that are woven with a description of a church/faith community; the blessings of multicultural worship; those who brought Catholicism when they relocated to western North Carolina; those who grew up Catholic in western North Carolina, when there were few Catholics in the region; those who converted to Catholicism; love for the Eucharist; what the Catholic faith teaches others, especially non-Catholics.

WANT MORE INFO?

Additional information about the book is available on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org/book.

Authors interested in submitting a reflection may contact David Hains dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Diocesan planner

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

HAMLET — Is conversion a one-time deal? Susan Brady, scripture student, will share biblical stories of conversion and answers to the question: *Why does God call us to turn back to him constantly?* The event will take place in the parish hall of St. James Church, 1018 West Hamlet Ave., Feb. 27 at 12 p.m. Advance registration is necessary. Call (910) 582-0207 to register and for details.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., will hold a Lenten Mission March 6, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. Msgr. Michael Flanagan of Cross International will present the mission, *"Living in the Peace of God's Love and Healing."* Cross International was founded to forge a meaningful link between parishes in America and the bishops, priests, nuns and lay leaders working overseas in places like Africa, Belize, Trinidad, Haiti and the Philippines. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Anointing of the Sick* powerfully demonstrates Jesus' presence among us as our healer and comforter. We invite all those who are experiencing any physical, mental or emotional afflictions, advanced age or facing surgery to receive this sacrament at a special Mass Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic

Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will host *"Weaving One Heart: Welcoming the Stranger"* March 6, 12:30-4:30 p.m. This educational forum will provide an overview on the plight of refugees and offer suggestions on how parishes can welcome and foster relationships with refugees resettling in the Charlotte region. The speaker will be Mary Morton from the Office of Migration and Refugee Services, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The event is sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace and the Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services. Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for further information and to register, or call Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234. Lunch will be provided to those who pre-register.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will be the celebrant at a Mass celebrating the gifts of those with mental retardation March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Parishioners and visitors with varying degrees of mental retardation will serve as musicians, lectors, greeters and ushers. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy, St. Gabriel disABILITY Ministry, at (704) 364-6964.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church will sponsor a *Prayer Vigil for Peace* at the Islamic Society of Gastonia, 4020 Titman Rd., Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Peace begins with prayer. Please dress modestly for the Vigil — no shorts or short skirts. For details, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A Black History Celebration will be held at St. Mary Church in Greensboro Feb. 26 and 27. Entitled *"Moving on: Embracing the Future,"* the event will feature guest speakers Fa-

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says without public faith or values fanaticism tends to grow

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When faith and faith-based values are banned from the public arena, fanaticism tends to grow and can endanger public order, Pope John Paul II said.

On the other hand, “a legitimate and healthy” separation of church and state guarantees everyone the right to profess his or her faith and to try to defend faith-based values in laws and in social life, he said.

In a message released by the Vatican Feb. 12, Pope John Paul wrote to the bishops of France to mark the 100th anniversary of the passage of France’s “Law of Separation” of church and state.

Despite initial periods of serious tension and turmoil — including the confiscation of church property and banning religious from teaching in schools — the French government and the Catholic Church in France have developed a relationship of respect and cooperation for the good of the nation, the pope said.

Material well-being and technological advances cannot answer people’s questions about why they were created and what the purpose of their lives is, he said.

By giving witness to their faith in God and to the existence of objective moral truths, French Catholics can help others discover the meaning of true freedom, which involves acting in accordance with the laws of God and the requirements of the common good, the pope said.

Allowing believers to express their faith and their values in public, he said, lends “dynamism” to public discussions about building a better society and alleviates “the tendency to seek refuge in sectarianism, which can represent a danger for the state itself.”

thers Chester Smith and Charles Smith. Workshops for high school and college students will be offered Feb. 26, 12-5 p.m. Gospel Mass and dinner will take place at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26 and Mass will be celebrated Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. For details, call MaryAnn Coleman at (336) 272-8650.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will present its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat* at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by coffee and light refreshments. The retreat dates are Thursdays, Feb. 24 and March 3, 10 and 17. This is an opportunity for all of us to do something extra during Lent. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others’ needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service will be held at First Presbyterian Church March 4 at 7 p.m. This bilingual service was written by Christian Women of Panama. The theme is “*Let Our Light Shine*.” The guest speaker will be Emmanuel Gitlin. A native of Poland, he is professor emeritus of religion at Lenoir-Rhyne College. For more information, contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and day-

time classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls’ Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Michael Matthews, Catholic evangelist and former Baptist minister, will be joining Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 128 North Fulton St., March 6-8 at 7 p.m. for the *Sacred Heart Lenten Mission*. On Sunday, Matthews will share his journey to the Catholic faith, including things every Catholic should know. The topic for the following nights will be “Bread from Heaven: the Eucharist in Scripture.” Childcare provided. Contact the church office (704) 633-0591 for more information.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — Rev. Arnaldo Lugo will preach the third in a series of *Community Lenten Worship Services* March 2; 12-12:30 p.m. at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The series is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican: Rice says Holy Land, religious freedom on U.S. agenda

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice assured top Vatican officials that the Holy See’s concerns over the Holy Land and religious freedom in the Middle East and China would be on the U.S. agenda.

Rice, on her first visit to the Vatican as newly appointed secretary of state, was to have met with Pope John Paul II, but his hospitalization kept him away. She made the visit as part of her seven-day tour of Europe and Israel.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, and the Vatican’s foreign minister, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, and other Vatican officials welcomed Rice and her entourage Feb. 8 in the Vatican for “an exchange of opinions,” Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Rice, who had just come from a two-day visit to Israel and the West Bank, told Vatican officials that she had some good news concerning the Holy Land.

She said that for the first time, Israeli and Palestinian leaders were saying the same things and that the two sides wanted to make the most of the new opportunities opened to them.

Rice’s Feb. 8 comments came just hours before Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas formally announced a cease-fire aimed at ending four years of violence.

Rice assured Cardinal Sodano that she would be personally engaged in following the Middle East peace process.

Cardinal Sodano and Archbishop Lajolo outlined the Vatican’s concerns in the Holy Land, especially concerning finding a resolution to territorial issues, the status of Palestinian refugees and the final status of Jerusalem. The archbishop specified that the Vatican wished that the sacred character of Jerusalem be recognized and that priests and other religious have access to the city without hindrance or difficulty.

Rice said the United States agreed with those principles, but she cautioned there was much work to be done before discussions on Jerusalem’s final status could be approached.

Time spent on talks about Iraq was brief: Rice emphasized she was aware of the difficulties Iraqi Christians were facing. Many Christian churches have been the target of bombings and attacks by insurgents.

Rice promised that the United States was working to encourage the eventual formation of a government that protected religious minorities in Iraq.

Cardinal Sodano told Rice he appreciated President Bush’s strong spiritual and moral approach to his leadership; Rice said she appreciated the Holy See’s longstanding efforts promoting interreligious dialogue and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Stewardship here and down under

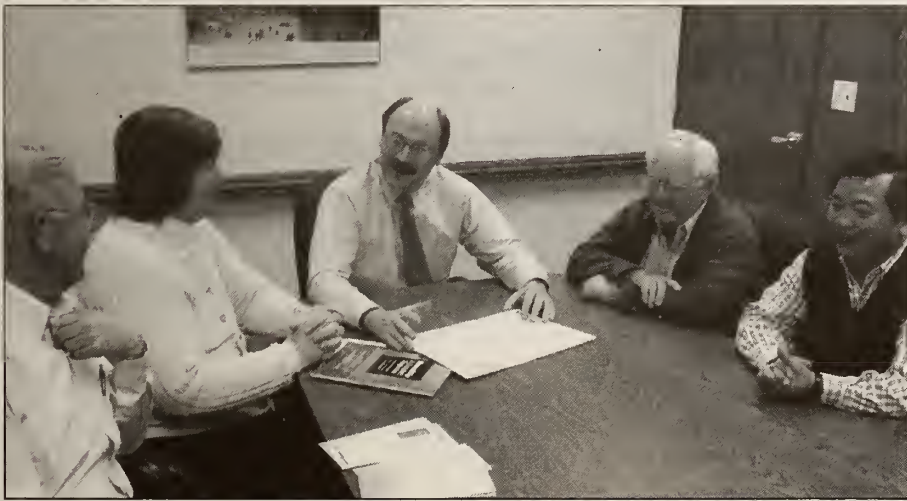


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Jim Kelley (center), director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, and Barbara Gaddy (second from left), associate director of development, discuss diocesan-based stewardship efforts with visitors from the Diocese of Wollongong, Australia, at the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte Feb. 1. The group attended the Jan. 24-28 International Catholic Stewardship Conference Winter Institute in Orlando, Fla., before visiting St. Barnabas Church in Arden and St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Feb. 2 to see firsthand how parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte implement stewardship. Kelley is an instructor at the annual winter institute. Pictured are (from left) Noel Liming, Gaddy, Kelley, Father Brian Jones and Father John Ho.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 11 Diocesan Planner, the wrong location for the Anointing of the Sick was given. The Feb. 20 Mass will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., at 2:30 p.m.

Deacon Jerry Hickey, permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, was not identified in a photo caption about airport chaplains.

Episcopal calendar Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- Feb. 24 — 9 a.m. Mass
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte
- Feb. 27 — 4 p.m. Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage
Belmont Abbey, Belmont
- March 5 — 11 a.m. Mass
Institution to Ministry of Lector Permanent Diaconate Candidates and Rite of Recombitment
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Polling at the post office

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Members of Boy Scout Troop 174 from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte spent their Saturday morning at Charlotte-area post offices educating customers about the U.S. Constitution Feb 12.

In honor of the upcoming Liberty Day, observed each year on March 16, the Boy Scouts asked willing customers one of 34 questions about the Constitution. In two hours, three Scouts at the Park Road Shopping Center Post Office surveyed about 75 people about their knowledge of the document that forms the basis of the U.S. governing system.

The project grew out of a recent presentation by members of the Lions Club to Troop 174. Following the Lions Club visit, the Scouts decided to go out into their communities and

find out just how much Americans know about their governing doctrine. They received permission from the post offices to poll patrons.

"It's important for people to know about the Constitution," said Raul Farroch, second vice president of the SouthPark Lions Club.

The Scouts found that only about one in four people answered their questions correctly. Everyone surveyed received a booklet containing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and its 27 amendments.

The post office customers weren't the only ones getting an education. Nick Hagopian, a seventh-grader and member of Troop 174, learned there are 27 amendments.

Fellow Scout and seventh-grader T.J. Roux learned the first seven words of the Constitution: "We the people of the United States."

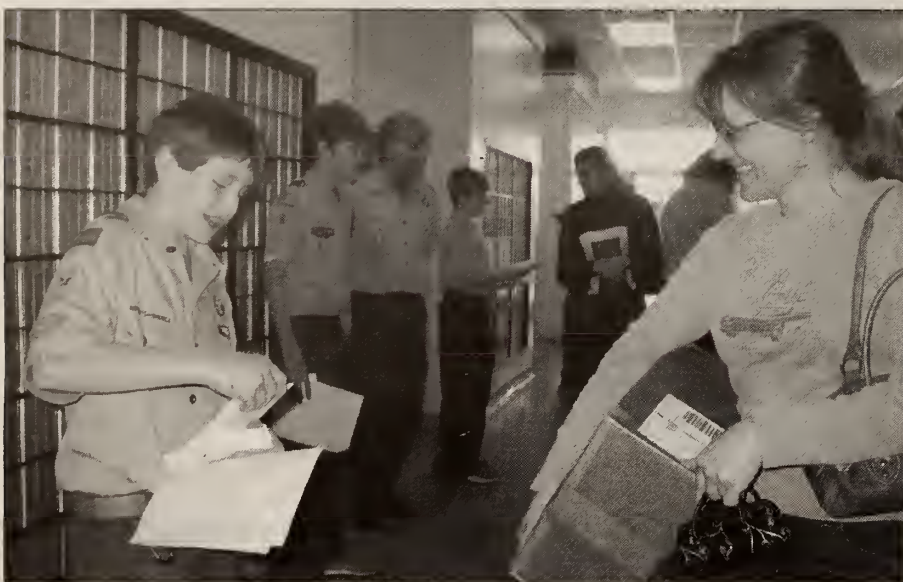


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

T.J. Roux, a member of Boy Scout Troop 174 from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, surveys a customer about the U.S. Constitution at the Park Road post office Feb 12.

Young at art



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Griselda Salazar, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and a senior at Salisbury High School, stands in front of a depiction of the Nativity of Jesus at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury Feb 10. The display was created by about 25 Hispanic young adult parishioners, under the direction of Father Julio Dominguez, parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church. The scene is one of five displays portraying scenes from the Bible, including the creation of Adam and the Annunciation, and will be on display until mid-March.

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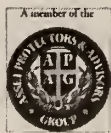
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YOUTH IN ACTION

'I've learned what it's like to be hungry, even for one day.'

Youths fast for CRS

FAST, from page 1

pathy for the poor and hungry of the world Feb. 11-12.

The agenda for the fast was based on Food Fast, a program designed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). This was the second year the youth group elected to participate in the hunger-awareness fast.

During their 24 hours of fasting, the youths studied poverty on global and personal levels. During a visit to a local Habitat for Humanity site, the teen-agers learned about conditions in West Africa from the project foreman, who had built homes for Habitat for Humanity in that impoverished part of the world.

"In West Africa, many people only eat one meal every other day," said June Bullock, one of the co-advisors for the youth group.

Another activity consisted of youths working out hypothetical budgets as if they earned minimum wage. Later in the day, they took their budgets to a grocery store to learn how much food could be purchased based on their budgets.

The youths quickly realized how much has to be sacrificed by a person earning \$5.15 an hour. Slashed from the budget were entertainment, new clothes, even health insurance.

"It's next to impossible to live on \$752 a month," said sophomore Steven Zabel.

Every few hours, the fasters were



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Above: Steven Zabel, Lizabeth Vlach and Patrick Bullock mull over their minimum-wage budgets during Food Fast Feb. 12.

Right: Jennifer Geyer reads her card prior to getting a drink of water during Food Fast. Some of the cards allowed for "safe passage," while other carried "waterborne diseases" or even "landmines."

allowed to drink a cup of juice. Other than that, they went completely without food.

"I learned what it's like to be hungry, even for one day," said freshman Cody Gonzalez. "It's not pleasant."

The teen-agers were allowed to drink as much water as they wanted — some of the time. In order to drink water, they first had to draw a card



from a basket. Some of the cards allowed "safe passage" to drink from the fountain. Other cards "afflicted"

Hunger is a global problem

Every day, 799 million people in developing countries go hungry.

Every year, 6 million children under the age of five die as a result of hunger.

Approximately 2.8 billion people live on less than \$2 a day.

More than 1.2 billion of these — one in five — survive on less than \$1 a day.

Approximately 1.1 billion people lack access to clean water and 2.4 billion live without adequate sanitation, mostly in Asia and Africa.

Every 14 seconds, someone dies from a disease caused by contaminated water, inadequate sanitation or poor hygiene. Seventy percent of water-related diseases could be avoided.

Source: Catholic Relief Services.

them with a waterborne disease and required a five-minute wait. The final cards struck the faster with a land mine, causing them to ask a friend to pull a card in an attempt to get a drink for them.

The parish supports the youth group's fast with financial donations. Last year's fast raised \$960, which was then donated to CRS.

During their fast, the teen-agers and their advisors held a candlelight vigil for the victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami victims.

"Letting go of my normal routine made me think more about the people who live without clean water, food and shelter," said senior Jennifer Geyer.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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—James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review

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Moving on to self-sufficiency

DSA helps Mother's Home shelter pregnant homeless women

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HICKORY — Expectant mothers in desperate need of housing are getting additional help, thanks to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

"The diocesan housing corporation is giving \$5,000 in February to Mother's Home, a component of the Family Care Center of Catawba Valley, to support their efforts to house homeless pregnant women," said Gerry Carter, director of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation.

The housing corporation, one of the 36 ministries funded by the DSA, became involved with the Family Care Center as part of an ongoing effort to help local initiatives already in existence.

"This money will be coupled with efforts by the Catholic Social Services Respect Life Program to support this ministry," said Carter. "This is an effort to use diocesan money to serve as leaven for a community-based response to housing needs."

The Family Care Center has provided transitional housing for homeless families with dependent children since 1989. In April 2004, the Family Care Center opened Mother's Home, a home specifically for homeless pregnant women.

"(Mother's Home) is pro-life and highly ecumenical," said Carter. "Its purpose is to do case management and help the women to get off the street while they are pregnant and move into self-sufficiency."

The home is open to women of all races and religions, who come from throughout North Carolina.

Residents of Mother's Home must be pregnant with their first child in order to live in the facility and may stay there until six weeks after giving birth. The house provides shelter for four women at a time.

"Mother's Home gives these women a chance to get their feet back on the ground," said Sandra Cale, a social

worker and staff member of the Family Care Center.

Some of the women are homeless because they have fled abusive relationships.

According to Cale, residents are provided shelter, clothing, transportation and help in finding permanent housing. In addition, they are required to attend behavior modification, prenatal and postpartum care and parenting classes.

Residents also must hold jobs or attend school, or both, while at Mother's House, said Cale.

"We're battling 700 on our former residents," said Cale. "Most of them are working or going to college, and living in their own apartments."

Although residents are given the option of putting their babies up for adoption, so far all of the women have chosen to raise their children.

"For many of these women, this is the first love they've ever had in their lives," said Cale. "Their children are all theirs, and they give them all the love they need."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



The Housing Corporation is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.



COURTESY PHOTO

Celebrating service

Members of the St. Agatha Ladies Auxiliary 497 of the Knights of St. John International celebrate their one-year anniversary at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte in January.

It was on Jan. 18, 2004, that 29 men of the Knights of St. John Commandery 586 and 20 women of the St. Agatha Ladies Auxiliary 597 were officially recognized by their fellow parishioners at a Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church, which concluded a weekend of initiation for the first Knights of St. John commandery in North Carolina.

The international fraternal and charitable organization serves in the United States, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Trinidad, among other countries.

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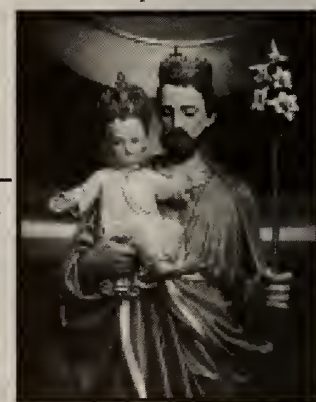
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Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 8

We mentioned last week that the Mass is the greatest prayer of the Catholic Church. As the highest act of prayer, the Mass teaches us how to pray. The first movement of the heart in prayer is humility and so we enter into the Mass by first calling to mind our sins and seeking the divine mercy of God in the Penitential Rite. Only then, only after recognizing our need for forgiveness and only after acknowledging the abundant mercy that God supplies us in our need, are we able to sing for joy in the ancient hymn of the Gloria.

And so, the Mass teaches us that prayer begins with humility and moves to praise and adoration of God: after the Penitential Rite follows the Gloria.

Upon close inspection, we discover there is not a single word in the Gloria that is not also found in the letters of St. Paul or in the writings of St. John. The Gloria is one of the oldest Christian hymns. The earliest records of the ancient Christians, dating as far back as the early second century, refer to singing the angelic hymn, known as the Gloria

in excelsis Deo ["Glory to God in the highest"] before the sacrifice of the Mass.

From the very beginning, singing the Gloria was particularly appropriate during the Christmas season, since the angels sang the opening words of the hymn after the birth of our Lord. Later evidence shows that the Gloria was given wider range to be sung at Sunday Masses throughout the year, but only when the bishop offered the sacrifice. It wasn't until almost the 12th century that the Gloria was extended to every Sunday Mass of-

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



fered by priests, as well as bishops.

The Gloria is composed of three main parts and refers to the three divine persons of the Blessed Trinity. The first section praises the Father, beginning with the words of the angels to the shepherds after the birth of our Lord: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth." The hymn continues to praise the Father: "Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father; we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory."

In other parts of the Mass, we thank and praise God for what he has accomplished. But here, in the Gloria, we thank God for who he is, not for what he does.

The second section of the Gloria is addressed to the eternal Son of God: "Lord, Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer." Again, we praise the Son of God firstly for who he is, then for what he has accomplished.

Only after recognizing the divine identity of the Son can we petition him to "receive our prayer."

The hymn surges to its height and then its completion as we move to the third section that includes reference to the Holy Spirit: "For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen."

This completes our hymn of praise to the Blessed Trinity. It is important to note that we do not sing the Gloria during the two penitential seasons of the Church year — Advent and Lent — as a communal preparation for Christmas and Easter.

Following the Gloria, the Introductory Rites of the Mass reach their summit in the Opening Prayer or collect. After we have approached God in humility to seek his mercy and praised him for his glory, we now approach him in petition or supplication. The priest, speaking on behalf of the church, collects the intentions of the day's sacrifice.

He begins, "Let us pray," inviting the church to join him in petitioning the Lord. There is a brief moment of silence to allow us the opportunity to collect our petitions and intentions. The celebrant extends his hands in prayer, known as the orans position, a typical prayer posture for those who are begging for a gift, as well as the posture of one who beholds God in his glory.

The faithful participate in this prayer by responding "Amen," which means "so be it."

It is an assent to all that has been accomplished in the Introductory Rites of the Mass: from humility, to praise and, finally, to petition.

Next week we will begin to examine the Liturgy of the Word.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

AN INVITATION TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGE YOUTH

Come join us for a Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College!



Diocese of Charlotte
THE YEAR OF
THE EUCHARIST

"Come, Let Us Adore Him"

Sunday, February 27
3:30-7 pm

Schedule for the Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey:

Time	Location	Event	Given by
2-3:30 pm	Belmont Abbey Campus	Optional tours	Abbey Students
3:30	Basilica	Arrival / Welcome	Abbey Students
4:00	Basilica	Welcome	Abbot Placid/ Bishop Jugis
4:10	Basilica	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Opening talk	Bishop Jugis
4:30	Basilica-College Campus	Eucharistic Procession	Bishop Jugis
5:30	Basilica	Evening Prayer	Monks and all present
6:00	Basilica	Benediction	Bishop Jugis
6:15	Haid Ballroom	Informal Dinner*	all participants

*Please bring your own dinner (sack lunch style). There is no cost for this event.

Confessors will be available throughout the afternoon in the Basilica for those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance. This pilgrimage is a part of our Diocesan observance of the "Year of the Eucharist" proclaimed by our Holy Father

Note to all Youth Group and Young Adult Group Leaders:

Please respond to this invitation to let us know how many youth are planning to attend.

Please e-mail Paul Kotlowski (pjky@bellsouth.net) by Wednesday, February 23rd.

www.goEucharist.com

Tribal lessons



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Catholic students Caroline Smith, Suzanna Maxwell, Michael Mazur and Jack Young stand in front of a display of American Indian "artifacts" that they and their classmates used to study various native tribes, including Pueblos, Makahs and Algonquians Feb. 10. The students are all members of Brynne Beal's fifth-grade class at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury.

In addition to the visual displays they created, students brought foods of the tribes they studied and dressed up in native costumes.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DEBRA LEE

Portraying pioneers

Tricia Wagner (left), author of "It Happened on the Oregon Trail," stands with fifth-grade students dressed in period clothing in front of a wagon at St. Matthew School in Charlotte Jan. 25. Wagner, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church, brought the costumes, wagon and other antiques for display during her talk with students about some remarkable and little-known events that happened along the 2,000-mile trail from Independence, Mo., to Oregon's Willamette Valley during the 19th century.

The Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace/Catholic Social Services announces four upcoming events:

Sunday, February 27 — 1:30 PM
St. Therese Church
Mooresville



Fr. Joseph Koterski, J.D., Ph.D., Chair of the Philosophy Department at Fordham University, will present and lead discussion on "The Catholic Church's Teaching on 'End of Life' Ethics" from 1:30 to 3:30 PM on Sunday, February 27 in the multipurpose room of St. Therese Church in Mooresville (following the 12 PM Mass). Lunch will be provided from 1:00 to 1:30 PM (donations accepted). Co-sponsored with St. Therese Catholic Church and the Respect Life Program/CSS.

CANCELED AND WILL BE RESCHEDULED

Sunday, March 6 — 1 PM
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Charlotte



Ms. Mary Morton, from the Office of Migration and Refugee Services of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be the keynote speaker at "Weaving One Heart: Welcoming the Stranger" on Sunday, March 6, 1:00 to 4:30 PM, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Charlotte. Lunch will be available at 12:30 PM for those who pre-register by calling 704-370-3234 by March 3. Co-sponsored with the Refugee Resettlement Office/CSS.

Friday, March 11 — 1 PM
St. Peter Church
Charlotte



Mr. Gerard Powers, J.D., Director of Policy Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, U. of Notre Dame, will present:

On Friday, March 11 for JUST SECOND FRIDAYS (JSF) on "The Power of Virtue - Religion and the Building of Peace in an Age of Terrorism" from 1-2 PM. Doors open at 12:30 PM. The event takes place in the lower level of the Annex Building of St. Peter Catholic Church in downtown Charlotte (located behind the church, on College Street). Parking is available in the underground garage next to St. Peter's. A limited number of sandwiches will be available (donations requested) or bring your lunch. Cold drinks provided.

On Saturday, March 12, on "The United States and Global Responsibilities After 9/11 and Iraq: A Catholic Perspective" at 11 AM in the Social Hall of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville. Co-sponsored with St. Eugene's Family and Community Life Ministry.



There is no charge for attending these events; however, a courtesy call that you plan to attend will assist staff in making preparations.

Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for further information on each of these events, including speaker bios and event descriptions.

E-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org or call 704-370-3231 for information and/or to indicate your plans to attend the event(s).

IN OUR SCHOOLS

MISSION OF MERCY

Catholic middle school teacher travels to Sri Lanka to aid in tsunami cleanup

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Just two months ago, Galle was a posh resort on the southern coast of the tiny island nation of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean. But the Dec. 26 tsunami devastated the city, leaving thousands of people dead and decimating living conditions.

Help poured in from near and far. Money, clothes, manpower.

On Feb. 15, more manpower — or womanpower — came from Charlotte.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Caroline Orsillo, a health teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, left for Galle, Sri Lanka, Feb. 15. She is spending 16 days in the region, cleaning wells and setting up water-purification systems.

Caroline Orsillo, a health teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, departed from Charlotte for 16 days of cleaning wells and setting up water-purification systems in Galle.

Such trips are familiar for Orsillo, who has taken more than two dozen mission trips to eastern North Carolina, El Salvador, Honduras and ground zero following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

When she told Carolé Breerwood, principal, about her desire to go on the mission — and that she would need three weeks off from school — Breerwood didn't hesitate before agreeing.

"She said to me, 'You go and do what you need to do,'" Orsillo said.

Orsillo was responsible for raising more than \$2,200 necessary to finance the trip. She wrote a note to her fellow teachers asking for their financial and prayer support.

Within a week, donations of cash and supplies poured in from Holy Trinity teachers and parents as well as from Orsillo's own parents.

"They've blown me away with their support," Orsillo said.

Following her return on March 7, Orsillo will talk to Holy Trinity students about her experiences in Sri Lanka.

"I hope to start a trend with the teachers and students, and my own daughters, to do this sort of mission trip," Orsillo said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



COURTESY PHOTO BY PATTI LEFLORE

Collective efforts

Performing a number of odd jobs, collecting door-to-door and working lemonade stands, the fourth-graders at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte raised more than \$1,600 for Catholic Relief Services for tsunami relief, contributing to the more than \$3,000 raised by the whole student body. The fourth-grader classes of teachers Steve Boon, Denise Heskamp, Jean Spegal and Betsy DesNoyer placed buckets in the school cafeteria, in which other students placed their left-over lunch and ice cream money.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Were you or someone you know in Asia immediately before, during or after the Dec. 26 tsunamis? What are you and your family, parish or school doing to help the victims? Are you willing to share your story with *The Catholic News & Herald*? If so, please contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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Culture Watch

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U.S. bishops' doctrinal official says Vatican ruling no surprise

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Vatican's notification that there are doctrinal errors in the book, "Jesus Symbol of God," by Jesuit Father Roger Haight, "doesn't surprise me," said Capuchin Franciscan Father Thomas Weinandy, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices.

The doctrinal congregation's notification, dated Dec. 13, was published in the Feb. 7-8 issue of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

It said the book contained a number of "affirmations contrary to the truths of the divine and Catholic faith" — including errors about "the pre-existence of the Word, the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, the salvific value of the death of Jesus, the uniqueness and universality of the salvific mediation of Jesus and the church, and the resurrection of Jesus."

Father Weinandy, who wrote a critical review of the book following its publication in 1999, noted that the Vatican document "begins by pointing out methodological errors."

He said that the most important methodological issue "is, as the Vatican document states, that the author subsumes everything under what he calls 'postmodernism.' He wants to make Christianity relevant, intelligible, reasonable to what he considers the postmodern age. In order to do that, Father Haight feels that he has to deny anything that is supernatural."

"So revelation is not God acting in time and history in a manner that is unique to himself; but rather, revelation becomes philosophical insight into the way reality, human life, always is," Father Weinandy said. "And the reason Father Haight does this is because he feels that belief in revelation, as traditionally understood, can no longer be believed by postmodern men and women."

"What he's saying is not really anything new," he said. "It (the denial of the supernatural) has been a problem since the Enlightenment. And of course he willingly admits that the Bible, especially the New Testament, believes in miracles and purports to have seen them — not least of which would be the Incarnation and the Resurrection."

Father Weinandy said that methodological approach affects Father Haight's theology of Christ, the Holy Spirit and God's trinitarian nature.

"In line with his methodology, he can no longer hold — as again the Vatican document points out — that the Son of God pre-exists with the Father and the Holy Spirit from all eternity, and then actually does come to exist as a human being, as a man, in space and time. That understanding is ruled out methodologically," he said.

In Father Haight's book Jesus "becomes the symbol of what God is really

like," he added. "So Jesus becomes the symbol of God being merciful, kind, compassionate, forgiving. And in so doing, we can call him the Son of God, but he is only the son not in the sense that he exists from all eternity as a distinct person within the Trinity, but because as a man he becomes an icon, a symbol, of what God is truly like."

He said he hoped Catholics, including the Catholic theological community, would welcome the notification.

"What they have done has not been done in an authoritarian manner, but done in order to preserve the authenticity of the Gospel and the Catholic faith," he said. "By highlighting the errors that Father Haight has tried to offer, the clarity and the truth of the Gospel is more clearly seen in all its splendor and light."

Father Haight, who taught theology at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Boston from 1990 to 2000, was suspended from teaching in 2000 when the Vatican began a formal investigation of his book. Last fall Weston accepted his resignation as a professor. He is currently teaching at the interdenominational Union Theological Seminary in New York.

The Vatican notification said that during its investigation his responses to questions about his writings had not been satisfactory. It said he can no longer teach as a Catholic theologian unless he "corrects his positions so as to be in full conformity with the doctrine of the church."

Father Haight told Catholic News Service he will have no comment on the Vatican ruling.

While one of Father Haight's stated intentions was to "affirm together the normativity of Jesus, the true and salvific character of other religions, and thus the positive character of religious pluralism," a Catholic expert in interreligious dialogue said his book is not helpful for such dialogue.

Father Francis Tiso, staff specialist for interreligious relations in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said Muslims and Buddhists — the two main world religions with which Catholics are engaged in active interreligious dialogue — would draw back from a dialogue based on "the postmodernist point of view" that frames Father Haight's work.

Muslims would see the book's approach as an attack on "a metaphysics we have in common," he said.

"It's going to upset the Buddhists and Hindus as well," he added, "because they, too, have great philosophical systems which in effect are being dismantled by this philosophical method that he's using on Catholic Christianity. So one has to ask the question if maybe most religious people around the world would find this method deeply disturbing because they would see it as a dismantling of their traditional philosophical systems."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 27, 2005

Feb. 27, Third Sunday of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Exodus 17:3-7
- Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
- 2) Romans 5:1-2,5-8
- 3) Gospel: John 4:5-42

Old stories with timely messages

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As the years pass, we come to treasure the memories of childhood, of beloved parents and grandparents, and the stories they once shared with us about their own lives. I have found those graced moments of long ago coming full circle when my two youngest grandchildren burst through our front door.

I'm not sure how my becoming the resident storyteller began, but now the request for a story, or better yet a scary story, quickly follows their arrival. One of the great gifts of "Grandma's Story Time" is reaching farther back in memory to those times beyond when I was a little girl.

Inevitably, after a spirited tale involving ancient relatives, the three of us visit the wall of family pictures. Calculating the years one night, I realized that I have become the living link in a chain that reaches back to late in the 1870s

when my own grandfather was the same age as the two upturned faces before me.

We shift to the Gospel of John during the next three weeks of the Lenten season. We hear about three unforgettable encounters Jesus has with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, a man blind from birth and Jesus' friends Martha and Lazarus. Each of these stories compels us to move closer to the events of Holy Week and to our own encounter with the risen Lord.

In today's Gospel, John draws us into a dusty day where we find Jesus tired and thirsty, looking for respite from the noon-day sun in a Samaritan town. The fact that this story occurs in Samaria prepares us for a tale of the unexpected, since Jews and Samaritans had been feuding over religious and political issues for centuries.

When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, he sets in motion the conversion not only of the woman, but of her neighbors as well. During their long conversation, barriers fall. Jesus is not afraid to speak to a woman in public — a woman some would say should have been condemned on the spot.

Not Jesus.

Jesus meets her where she is and reveals to her that he is the long-awaited Messiah, the living link to God.

I often wonder who remembered this wonderful multifaceted story and passed it along so that someone we know as John, whose muse was the Holy Spirit, would share it with us.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20-26

Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; **Monday (St. Peter Damian)**, Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (The Chair of St. Peter)**, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; **Monday (Lenten Weekday)**, 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (St. Katharine Drexel)**, Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (St. Casimir)**, Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-141.

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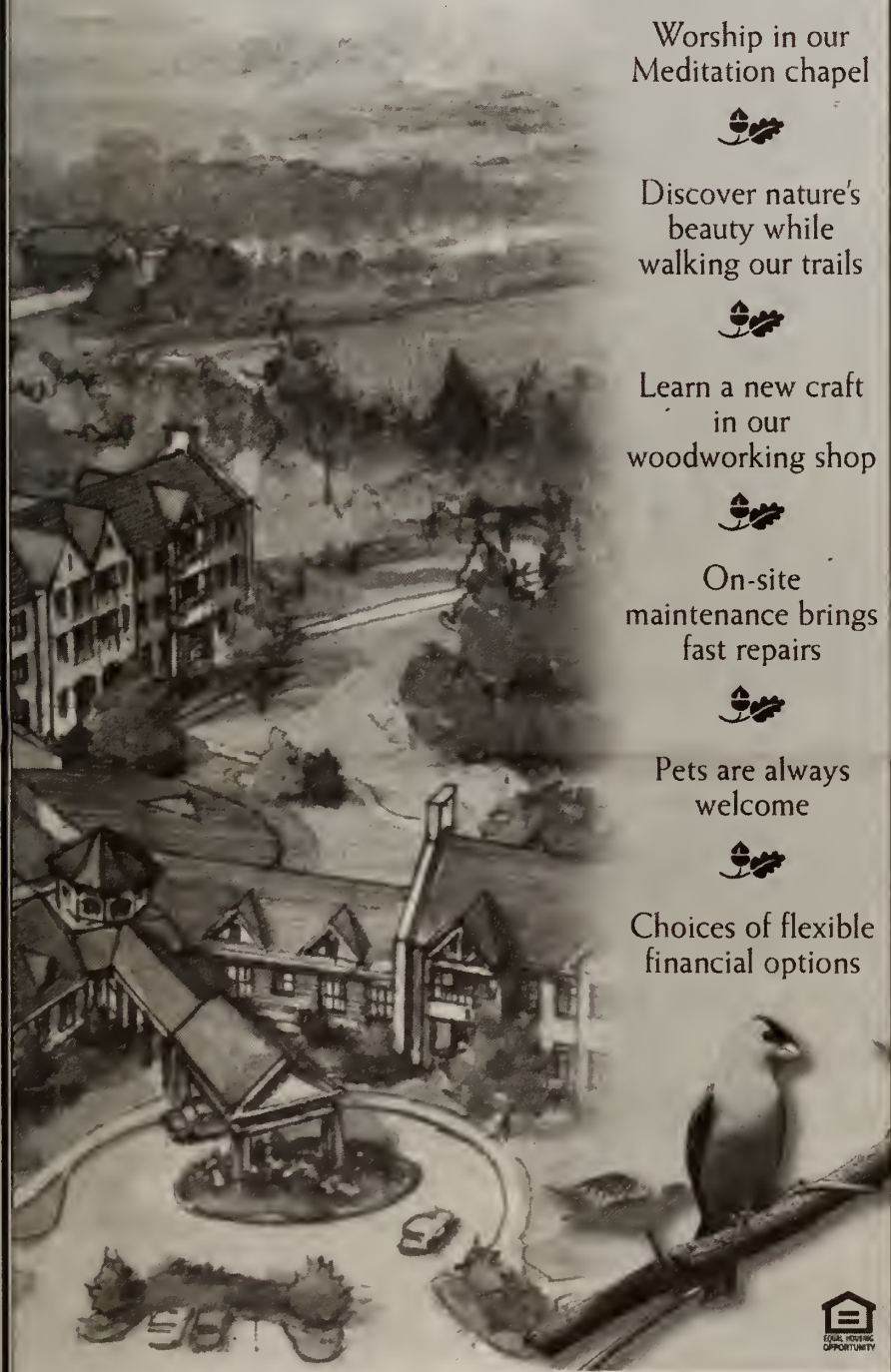
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This 'Mask' shouldn't be unveiled



CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE CINEMA

Alan Cumming stars in "Son of the Mask," a daffy but disappointing comedy about a cartoonist who stumbles upon an ancient Norse mischief-making mask that transforms its wearer into a green-skinned demigod, only to discover that he somehow passed on its powers to his newborn son. Emphasizing visual gimmickry over storytelling, the film contains unnecessary potty humor and innuendo. Recurring comic and cartoon violence, some crude bathroom and sexually suggestive humor, an instance of fleeting partial rear nudity, as well as minimal crass language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Screenwriter wins \$40,000 Act One fellowship

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (CNS) — Haynes Brook was chosen as the first recipient of the Bishop Norman McFarland Writing Fellowship awarded by the Act One training and mentoring program for faith-oriented screenwriters.

Brook is a Los Angeles-based screenwriter, actor and playwright. Several of his plays have been staged by Tim Robbins' Actors' Gang theater company. He wrote and directed the half-hour comedy short "The Seven-Level Secret" and had a 10-minute short, "Naomi's Underwear," produced.

The fellowship is a gift from retired Bishop Norman F. McFarland of Orange. In a statement, he said he agreed to

the fellowship being named in his honor as a reaffirmation of "the church's continuing encouragement and support of artists in all arenas."

Act One executive director Barbara Nicolosi said in a statement that the fellowship's goal is to "produce a commercial film or television project of great merit and worth. We are also looking to give a creative opportunity to an up-and-coming screenwriter who combines professional skill with personal integrity, and a profound commitment to Christ."

Brook is an Act One alumnus, having completed a monthlong screening workshop combining ethics and spirituality with mentoring by industry professionals.

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Adult stem-cell breakthrough generates new hope

STEM CELLS, from page 1

stem-cells may have the capacity to generate into most tissue types in the human body," said Losordo. "This is a very unique property that until this time has only been found in embryonic stem cells."

Losordo, together with Dr. Youngsup Yoon, led the team of researchers whose findings demonstrating the unique properties of these cells were published in the Feb. 1 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center is the flagship hospital of the Boston's Caritas Christi Health Care System and a teaching hospital of the Tufts University School of Medicine.

Reviewing the study, Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, characterized the researchers' findings as "very exciting."

"It shows that there is a higher degree of flexibility in adult stem cells than many have thought in the past," he said.

According to Father Pacholczyk,

supporters of research using embryonic stem cells have long argued that adult stem cells were not as flexible as embryonic stem cells, thus making them less useful in repairing or healing damaged tissues and cells in the body.

"What appears novel about this report is that they have carefully derived a single cell type from the bone marrow, which can be expanded and used to flexibly generate a number of tissues," explained Father Pacholczyk.

"Adult stem cells are incredibly powerful," he added.

Adult vs. embryonic stem cells

Stem cells have a number of unique properties not found in other types of cells. They can divide and renew themselves over a long period of time and, while they are unspecialized in their structure, have the ability to generate into specialized cells for specific tissues.

Currently there are two different types of stem-cell research taking place — embryonic and adult stem cells.

Adult stem cells can be found within tissues and organs, including bone marrow, the brain, blood vessels, peripheral

blood, skin, and the liver. Embryonic stem cells can be found only in embryos, and to harvest these cells, a human embryo must be destroyed.

"Adult stem cells have already been successfully used in human therapies for many years," Father Pacholczyk said. "To date, no therapies in humans have ever been successfully carried out using embryonic stem cells."

"The findings reported in Dr. Losordo's study is but another affirmation that we don't have to invest hundreds of thousands on dollars on something that is purely speculative, not to mention morally questionable," he added.

New frontiers

Losordo and Yoon led the preclinical study in which researchers extracted stem cells from human bone marrow and transplanted them into the damaged hearts of rats. The stem cells induced cardiac regeneration, including the growth of new muscle and blood vessels in the heart.

In addition, the researchers demonstrated that this specific subpopulation of stem cells has the capacity to develop into all types of cells, including those that make up the glands, digestive tract, hair, skin, nails, brain, nervous system and muscle.

While previous research has been conducted with stem cells derived from rat or mouse bone marrow, this is the first study to show how human bone marrow stem cells can be used in the generation of various tissue types.

Losordo and his team at Caritas St. Elizabeth's are planning to conduct further preclinical research with this subpopulation of stem cells. If the findings confirm their hypothesis, they will seek to begin Phase I clinical trials with human patients.

"We may be able to extract stem cells from a patient's bone marrow to repair a wide variety of damaged tissue in his or her body," said Losordo.

"Furthermore, by growing tissue from a patient's own stem cells, we could overcome issues related to cell therapy, such as tissue rejection," he said.

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FROM THE COVER

Pope leads, but in different ways

POPE, from page 1

For the 84-year-old pontiff, who suffers from a debilitating neurological disease and arthritis, the hospital stay may have marked another stage in his passage from an activist pope to one who leads primarily through prayer and presence.

The pope raised the issue in an Angelus talk Feb. 6, which an aide had to read for him. The pope said he was spending his time praying continually for the intentions of the church and the world.

"In this way, even here in the hospital, among the other sick people to whom my affectionate thoughts go out, I continue to serve the church and all of humanity," the pope's text said.

Some commentators misinterpreted the remark to mean the pope was asserting that he could still run the church. Rather, he was suggesting that sometimes prayer, not managerial abilities, must take precedence — even in the papacy.

"The pope doesn't have to be like Schwarzenegger, the governor of California, and give the impression of a superman who governs the church," said French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, who retired in mid-February as archbishop of Paris.

Cardinal Lustiger said most people see in the pope "a weak, suffering, sick man who continues to be the sign of a compassionate Christ who carries all the suffering in the world."

"If it were like that for 30 years, it might be a little excessive. But the church's government, when it shows it has a man at the head who carries his suffering like we should carry it, with courage and for the good of humanity, it is a great example," Cardinal Lustiger said.

To some, all this sounds like exces-

sive adulation and a failure of the church to confront hard facts.

Strength in weakness

"Most ends of pontificates have been marked by a type of idolatry ... and with John Paul II the limit has been reached," the French newspaper *Le Monde* said in a commentary.

"The fiction that this exhausted man is still capable of governing cannot last any longer," it said.

Even inside the Vatican, some have questioned how long the pope, who is expected to grow weaker as his neurological illness progresses, will be able to keep up his teaching role — through documents, speeches and weekly spiritual talks.

That doesn't bother Jean Vanier, founder of the L'Arche communities for the disabled, who spoke to Vatican Radio.

"Today the pope, more than any encyclical or other document, is by his very presence a sign of holiness," Vanier said.

"The pope is a man who suffers. He suffers physically, but I think he also suffers terribly in his heart. And yet there is something in him extraordinarily luminous and clear," he said.

For Vanier, the pope's suffering has become an inspirational sign for Christians living in a world of poverty and injustice. In this sense, he said, the pope exemplifies St. Paul's statement, "Strength is made perfect in weakness."

That all this is on the pope's mind is clear from the content of his teachings in recent months and years.

Important lessons

The pontiff returned from the hospital just in time for the World Day of the Sick Feb. 11. In his message for the event, the pope said that precisely in times of sickness, people ask hard ques-



Pope John Paul II waves from his apartment window at the Vatican Feb. 13. The pope thanked the world for praying for his recovery and was cheered at length during his 10-minute appearance.

tions about ultimate realities, including the meaning of pain, suffering and death.

For the Christian, he said, it is a time to understand that "health" goes beyond physical well-being and includes "total harmony with God, with self and with humanity." That understanding is reached through the mystery of Christ's own passion, death and resurrection, he said.

The pope's Lenten message this

year also explored a theme with personal overtones: old age and the role of the elderly in the church and society.

The pope wrote about times when illness, age and physical weakness reduce the person's ability to be self-reliant. But far from being a wasted time of life, growing old, if accepted in the light of faith, can be an opportunity to understand the "mystery of the cross," he said.

Vatican officials say the pope does not always bear his own physical burdens lightly. He is typically impatient to resume work during his hospital stays, and over the last two years he has regretted the need to shorten his meetings, sit on the sidelines at liturgies and hand off his speeches for others to read.

Occasionally this impatience shows, as in Switzerland last year when he slapped the hand of an aide who tried to take his text, after the pontiff struggled to pronounce the first few words.

But increasingly, the pope has pointed to the need for people of his age to "focus on that which is essential, giving importance to those things that the passing of years does not destroy," as he said in his Lenten message.

By doing so, the elderly teach something important to their society, especially the younger generations, he said.

Most Vatican officials accept that Pope John Paul's papacy has entered a stage of shorter meetings, fewer documents, less talking and a reduced number of trips. In terms of spiritual impact, however, they are hoping that less is more.

"Of course, he's less active," said one Vatican source. "But even so, he's communicating a powerful message."



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Lent in the Media Age

Giving up TV might make for good penance

Oblate Father Joe Zuschmidt, pastor of Queen of Apostles Church in Belmont tells a homily "ha-ha" that goes something like this: "When I was in elementary school, the Sisters had us write down what we would like to give up for Lent. I wrote down vegetables, cleaning my room and homework. That very same day I learned how boring and arduous it was to write 500 times, 'I will not make fun of Lenten sacrifices.'"

Wouldn't we all like to take the easy way and do a penitential act during this holy season by giving up something we don't really like anyway? Alas, there is no easy way around it. Pain is gain when it comes to penance.

Penitential acts can take two paths — denial and good works. Denial is usually prefaced with the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Depending on your age, the answer might be candy, desserts, decaf double-mocha-fudge-caramel lattes, alcohol or any one of a number of other simple pleasures. The other possibility, good works, offers endless choices: volunteer in a school, visit the sick or reach out to someone in need.

What if you could combine the two types of Lenten offerings? Can we do something good and at the same time give up something? The media, or more specifically, our interaction with it, provides the opportunity for this double whammy of Lenten grace.

Foregoing some of the programming that television has to offer is both denial and doing a good work. I don't recommend giving up TV completely. The Weather Channel is always good, and there are other programs that by giving them up wouldn't necessarily qualify as a Lenten sacrifice. Local newscasts with those abrasive car dealer ads come immediately to mind.

TV has been described as a vast wasteland, and there is a lot of programming that we could easily do without, but which, for many, is a guilty pleasure. For me, a good example of this genre is the popular "judge" show, where people argue before a retired jurist about issues as silly as repair bills on their mobile homes or a missing pet that may have ended up on a neighbors dinner menu.

Turning off this kind of video sludge may be a sacrifice for some, but doing so also does a greater community good. For example, your neighbors won't overhear one of these arguments and assume it is a real confrontation. Your children will profit from your good example and who knows, with the spare time you have you could serve a meal at

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



a soup kitchen.

Newspapers and magazines offer the trashy equivalent of "The Jerry Springer Show," too. As with TV, for some people skipping some articles would be a minor sacrifice that carries an ultimate benefit. Take celebrity news, please. You could start by passing over all of the stories about Madonna, Brad, Jennifer and Cher, just to name a few. Limit your reading to reviews of their film or recording work.

Sordid sports stories about the off-field lives of some athletes are another good example. Stick to scores and highlights of real games. Depending on how fast you read, this might give you time enough to write someone a thoughtful note or drop off some canned goods at the food bank.

Also by avoiding the tabloids, think of the money you will save at the grocery store check out line.

The real good work of being more discriminating about what we watch and read is that the producers and editors of this trash will get the message that the audience is more sophisticated than what it is now perceived to be. Perhaps that will raise the quality level. I wouldn't count on it though. Maybe we can get the good Sister in Father Zuschmidt's story to require all offending media moguls to write 500 times, "I will not create trash."

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Your will won't work well when ...

MULTIPLE FACTORS MAY INTERFERE WITH EXECUTING A WILL

Your will won't work well when ...

1. It's out-of-date.

How old is your will? Have you reviewed it in the last three years? If not, chances are it could use some attention.

A number of personal factors can affect your will: things like changes in income, employment, family size or marital status. External factors such as new federal or state laws can also require the revision of your will.

Have any of the following things occurred in the last few years?

- Move from another state;
- New business venture;
- Children less dependent;
- Death in family;
- Serious illness in family;
- Marriage or divorce;
- Birth of child;
- Executor can't serve;
- Trustee can't serve;
- Desire to change guardian;
- More grandchildren;
- Change in giving interests;
- Job promotion;
- Purchase of life insurance;
- New out-of-state property;
- Purchase of home;
- More property in joint names;
- Major change in finances.

2. It's legally invalid.

Your will can contain all the information you think you want and not be worth the paper it's written on. This is more likely to be true if your will is old, or if you tried to cut corners by using generic forms from a stationery store.

A will can be invalid if it is unsigned or witnessed improperly.

There's just no substitute for having a competent attorney involved. In the short run, it may cost you a bit more, but it will certainly provide greater peace of mind and possibly save your survivors from a nightmare.

3. It conflicts with other plans.

Your will should be coordinated

Guest Column

GINA M. RHODES
GUEST COLUMNIST



with your other estate transfer documents. For example, insurance proceeds and brokerage accounts pass outside the will to the named beneficiaries. Pension funds are also distributed outside the will. A will that truly works well takes all of these other assets into consideration.

4. It fails to fulfill your desires.

Your will should accomplish exactly what you want. Do you want your children to receive their inheritance all at once, or at various intervals? Do you want your charitable gifts to be used for unrestricted purposes, or do you want to earmark the funds to meet specific needs? Do you want to give your parish a percentage of your estate, or a set amount?

Perhaps you didn't know all the options when you signed your will. Later, you discovered other ways to make your bequests. You may feel dissatisfied with your will. It may work as a legal document, but fail to work well as the expression of your true desires.

Is it time to redo your will? If so, we urge you to make an appointment with your attorney as soon as possible. You should be satisfied and confident about your estate plan.

Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, is available to visit with you about any of this. He can review bequest options with you and tell you about other giving possibilities. For more information, please contact Jim at (704) 370-3301 or jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

Gina Rhodes was director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Money left for Masses

Q. Several months ago our sister died, leaving a large sum of money for Masses. We want to comply with her wishes, but how do we distribute these Masses and be assured they will be offered? (Ohio)

A. Offerings for Mass intentions may be given to any priest, who is then obliged to apply the Masses for those specific intentions. Parishes, monasteries and other Catholic institutions may also accept such offerings, committing themselves to having the Mass intentions fulfilled by priests connected with that institution.

In your case, with the large number of Masses desired, you may wish to distribute them among several parishes or individual priests. In fact, you may find it necessary to do that since no priest may accept more Mass offerings than he can fulfill or arrange to be fulfilled by others within a year.

Once a priest or Catholic institution has accepted the Mass offerings you give them, you need not worry about your requests being satisfied. Church law seriously obliges priests to satisfy all Mass obligations they have accepted and to do so in a timely fashion, certainly, as I said, within a year.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

The case of Terri Schiavo

One can't let go if she isn't going anywhere

She is not dying. She has no terminal illness. She is not in a coma. She is not on life-support equipment. She is not alone, but rather has loving parents and siblings ready to care for her for the rest of her life. She has not requested death.

Yet a battle rages regarding whether Terri Schindler-Schiavo should be starved. She has sustained brain injuries and cannot speak or eat normally. Nevertheless, the only tube attached to her is a small, simple, painless feeding tube that provides her nourishment directly to her digestive system.

Her legal guardian is her husband, who already is with another woman — by whom he also has children. He wants Terri's feeding tube removed. Of course, he could simply allow her to be cared for by her parents and siblings, and get on with his life, but he refuses.

I have had two opportunities to visit Terri, most recently on the first Sunday of February. I have been able to talk to her, to listen to her struggle to speak, to watch her focus her eyes and smile and attempt to kiss her parents. I have prayed with her, blessed her and assured her that she has many friends around the country and around the world, who love her and want her to

Guest Column

FATHER
FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



enjoy the same protections we all enjoy, even when we're wounded.

News articles have recently characterized Terri's situation by saying that some want to "keep her alive against her husband's wishes." But Terri is not dying. What does "keeping her alive" mean, if not the same thing as keeping you and me alive — that is, by giving us adequate food, shelter and care?

Some say that Terri's family should "let her go." But this is not a matter of "letting her go," because she isn't "going" anywhere. If, however, she is deprived of nourishment, then she would slowly die in the same way that any of us would slowly die if we were deprived of nourishment. It is called starvation.

If the courts permit that to happen, then why should that permission apply only in Terri's case? There would be no way to limit it to her case alone. Countless others would follow, and their deaths would be described as "letting them die" instead of "killing them."

Where, indeed, does the state get the authority to starve people? Court decisions permitting this lack all authority, as Pope John Paul II teaches in "The Gospel of Life" (section 72). These decisions cannot be obeyed, because they are not binding on the conscience and are in fact acts of violence.

At the present time, there are two simple things you can do. Educate your neighbors about this situation. Visit our Web site, www.priestsforlife.org, and click on the "Terri Schiavo" link. Second, contact anyone you know in Florida and ask them to encourage their governor and state legislators to continue doing everything possible to save Terri's life.

For more information on this crucial case, visit our Website, www.priestsforlife.org. If you want educational cards on Terri's situation, contact our orders department at orders@priestsforlife.org, or by calling 888-PFL-3448, ext. 237, or by writing Orders Department, Priests for Life, PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.

Marriage isn't all glitter and gold

Our Turn

THERESE J.
BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



After a mere four and a half years, Hollywood's most celebrated marriage — between America's heartthrob Brad Pitt and "Friends" favorite star Jennifer Aniston — has ended in speculation that has the tabloids guessing everything from extramarital affairs, ultimatums about babies and the usual celebrity gossip about jealousy, careers and whether beautiful people can remain faithful in a world of glitter.

My naive self was among the many young adults who invested hope in Jen's and Brad's marriage because, like the nuptials of Princess Diana and Prince Charles, it seemed like the one fairy tale that wouldn't end as half of marriages do — in bitter divorce.

As a product of a split family, nothing gives me nightmares more than messy breakups. Like many brides, I said my vows knowing that marriage wasn't always going to be as easy as it appeared on that gorgeous day I said "I do." Yet I didn't expect the newness to wear off as the mundane responsibilities of playing house with someone — taking out the trash, washing endless loads of laundry and feeding and bathing children — introduced me to domesticity's boring side.

Like half of American wives today, I can say I'm in this relationship for the long haul. The white gown and wedding ring (to which I'm now allergic) weren't just props for a personalized pageant. They signified the end of a me-first attitude and the beginning of a life together with someone I love.

A friend who recently celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary told me that marriage at nine years is much more difficult than it is at 25 years. In the earlier years, a couple hasn't worked out all the kinks.

Perhaps that's why many people are divorcing after a few years of marriage. Just as the romance fades, the real work starts. You realize your spouse snores and is grumpy when he has the flu. But you love him anyway.

And if you happen to fall in love with a person, place or thing, you do so as a married entity, with a respectful distance so as to not break the bonds of your commitment.

Marriage isn't for sissies or for people used to glitter and gold. More often than not, the daily give-and-take of a committed relationship chips away at a person's selfishness and ego, making her into a kinder, more compassionate human being. But that only comes with a little boredom.

How common mendacity is!

Telling lies comes too easy to many of us

Recently, I used the word "mendacity" in a passing comment during a lecture on contemporary business ethics. I may even have used the word "mendacious" in describing an auditor's complicity in filing a false income statement.

In any case, a mid-level manager came up to me afterward and said, "You used a word that I never heard before, 'mendacity.' What does it mean?"

My immediate reaction was to admire his honesty in acknowledging his own modest vocabulary deficit. Some others in the audience probably didn't know the meaning of the word either, but chose, as so many of us do from time to time, not to let on.

We're not expected to declare to the world our ignorance of things our conversation partners presume that we know and understand. But if we shade the truth in speech we originate and, of course, tell an outright lie, we're left open to the charge of mendacity.

A column by Don Aucoin in the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine last summer highlighted New York State Attorney General Elliot Spitzer's disclosures of the extent of fraud committed by Wall Street investment banking firms. The article was titled "Let's Be Honest."

"The country seems to be on a

lying binge," writes Aucoin. "The simple act of telling the truth seems unaccountably hard for a lot of people these days."

His point is that "the simple act of telling the truth" is a solution to the problem of corporate fraud.

"The tide of corruption at Enron, WorldCom, Tyco, Arthur Andersen, ImClone et al," says Aucoin, "represents a profound breach of the social contract and persuasive evidence of a systemic, robber-baron ethos at play — one that, if unchecked, could threaten the livelihoods and retirement dreams of millions of working stiffs."

The way to check it is "the simple act of telling the truth."

In giving advice to Catholic Church officials still trying to work their way through the clergy sexual-abuse scandals of 2002, Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, former editor of Commonweal, said simply, "Tell the truth." She added: "We must pursue a form of what Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech Republic, called 'living in truth' in his 1978 essay, 'The Power of the Powerless.' 'Living within the truth,' he wrote, 'is an attempt to gain control over one's own sense of responsibility.'"

Havel saw "living a lie" as a condition "so subtle and so unconscious that

Looking Around

FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST



those who live a lie may not fully grasp the ordinary subterfuge in which they carry on their daily life," Steinfels said.

The subtlety of it all has to be respected by everyone in church and state, business and government — wherever human persons communicate. "Living within the truth" implies a serious responsibility to understand the meaning of "mendacity," which, of course, is the opposite of "veracity."

A lawyer friend told me the other day that veracity is so much on his mind that he finds himself challenging young associates if they say, in written or oral communication with clients, "It's almost ready," when, in fact, not one word of the brief or memorandum has found its way onto paper.

"Veracity is a crucial but neglected virtue," says this senior partner. "It's easy to start with small untruths, but that can escalate into exaggeration of the number of hours worked (and billed) and on to outright misrepresentations."

Avoiding mendacity is a challenge for us all.

E-mail: wbyron@loyola.edu.

BUNDLE OF JOY

Chicago priest finds premature newborn at church door

BY MICHELLE MARTIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — When Father Paul Kalchik peered behind the vestibule door at St. Michael Church in Chicago before the 9:30 a.m. Mass Feb. 6, he saw a bundle wrapped in a blue terry-cloth towel.

It wasn't until he unwrapped the cloth that the tiny baby inside started to cry, and Father Kalchik's training as a nurse — a degree he studied for but never completed — and as a priest kicked in.

"I was thinking, 'Little baby. Cold little baby. Get the baby warm. Get the baby safe,'" Father Kalchik said from his office at Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary Feb. 7.

And as he carried the baby up the aisle and into the attached rectory, he noticed the tiny boy urinating on him ("That's good — it means his kidneys are functioning," Father Kalchik thought) as he pronounced the prayers of baptism.

He christened the child Michael Joseph, in honor of St. Michael the Archangel, the parish's patron, and late pastor Father Joseph Nowack. All the while, a small parade of lecturers, eucharistic ministers and other parishioners followed, while a choir member began leading the waiting congregation of 200 to 300 people in prayer.

After Father Kalchik wrapped the baby in a dry towel and called

authorities, Michael Joseph was taken to Advocate Trinity Hospital. Staff said the boy, at 3 pounds 4 ounces, was about five weeks premature. He needed tube feeding but was otherwise well.

Meanwhile, Father Kalchik started Mass about 20 minutes late. He and parishioners prayed for the boy and his mother at that Mass, the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass and daily Masses.

"Obviously, this pregnancy was not totally wanted," Father Kalchik said. "But she did carry it to term, and she did bring the baby to a safe place. Churches have traditionally been seen as a place of sanctuary."

Whoever it was might be familiar with the parish's Mass schedule, Father Kalchik said, because the baby was placed in the vestibule sometime after 9:10 a.m., when he finished greeting parishioners after the 8 a.m. Mass, and before 9:30 a.m.

Illinois' "safe haven" law allows mothers of newborns to leave them, no questions asked, at police stations, fire stations and hospitals. Churches are not on that list, and the state Department of Children and Family Services was investigating.

That same morning, Father Kalchik said, two parish families expressed interest in adopting the boy.

NOTICE TO READERS
The Parish Profile will return.

Discussing Vatican II



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, speaks to more than 100 people at the church Feb. 8 about the importance of the Second Vatican Council in recognition of its upcoming 40th anniversary.

Vatican II, as it is called, was an ecclesial, theological and ecumenical congress convened in the autumns of four years from 1962 through 1965 with bishops from around the world. The council produced 16 documents and brought about many changes in the Catholic Church, including those on liturgy and Catholic social teaching.

Msgr. McSweeney will give more lectures on Vatican II throughout March and April. Scheduled times are: Feb. 28, March 7 and 21, and April 4 at 7-8:15 p.m.; and March 1, 8 and 22, and April 5 at 6:30-7:45 p.m. Childcare is available by reservation at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

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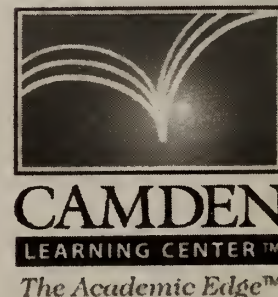
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CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Father Paul Kalchik kneels in the vestibule of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Chicago where he found a baby behind the church doors Feb. 6 before the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Michael Joseph, who was born about five weeks premature, was hospitalized and is doing well. Some parishioners have expressed interest in adopting him.

Roman Catholic
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Understanding the Mystery
of the Mass, Part 9;
eucharistic adoration list

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FEBRUARY 25, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 21

Secrets, superstitions, sainthood

*Pope, cardinal talk of
last Fatima visionary*

Sister Lucia dos Santos
dies Feb. 13

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY —

When Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos — the last of three Fatima visionaries — was buried in mid-February, a surprising number of people believed still-secret secrets of Fatima were buried with her.

Her Feb. 13 death also led to widespread discussion in Italy about the number 13, given the fact that the Blessed Virgin Mary promised to appear to Lucia and her two cousins on the 13th of the month. The apparitions took place from May 13 to Oct. 13, 1917.

And, of course, discussion began almost immediately about when the process to canonize her would begin. Her



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Worshippers surround the casket of Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos as it leaves the Coimbra cathedral following her funeral in central Portugal Feb. 15. Sister Lucia, the last of three children who claimed to have seen the Virgin Mary at Fatima, died Feb. 13 at age 97.

See FATIMA, page 5

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Charlotte Diocese in compliance with charter to protect children

NEW AUDIT FINDS NEAR-TOTAL
COMPLIANCE OF DIOCESES
WITH SEX-ABUSE POLICIES

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte is among the 96 percent of the 195 U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies in implementing every applicable article of the U.S. bishops' policies to prevent clergy sex abuse of minors as of Dec. 31, 2004, according to an independent audit released Feb. 18.

The statistics are contained in the 2004 annual report on the implementation of

See CHARTER, page 8

Real ID decried as excessive

*National, local critics
say House bill will hurt
people, nation*

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Despite opposition from faith groups, governors, state motor vehicle departments, unions and organizations representing Hispanics, Native Americans, refugees and immigrants, the House voted 261-161 Feb. 10 to limit drivers licenses to people who can prove they are citizens or legal immigrants.

The U.S. bishops' migration committee chairman had been among those encouraging the

See REAL ID, page 13

WELCOMING THE ELECT

Bishop Jugis celebrates rite of election

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Each year, the Catholic Church welcomes tens of thousands of adult converts into full communion through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Nearly 700 of these neophytes, or new Catholics, join the church in the Diocese of Charlotte annually.

RCIA is the rite in which adults are baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist. RCIA was restored by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s as the suitable way adults prepare to receive these sacraments.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis welcomed hundreds of these soon-to-be Catholics from the diocese

See RCIA, page 9



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presides over the rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Feb. 19.

Around the Diocese

St. Pat's parade coming to
Charlotte; Knights raise
funds for needy

Perspectives

Healing for those in
need; communal
anointing of the sick

Parish Profile

A spirit of Christian love: St. Paul the
Apostle Church touches lives of many
in Guilford County

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

MISSION OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO FROM AGENCIA O GLOBO, AILTON DE FREITAS

The coffin of U.S. missionary Sister Dorothy Stang is carried by members of the Landless Movement during funeral services Feb. 15 in Anapu, Brazil. Sister Stang, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, lived in Brazil's Amazon region for nearly four decades, working to protect the land rights of peasants and speaking out concerning the ecological dangers of deforestation.

Murdered nun spoke of 'great struggle' in one of her last letters

BALTIMORE (CNS) — In what might have been her last letter before she was murdered Feb. 12, U.S. missionary Sister Dorothy Stang spoke of the "great struggle" in Brazil, where she had spent nearly 40 years.

The letter was to her fellow Sister of Notre Dame de Namur and longtime close friend, Sister Barbara Ann English, director of Baltimore's Julie Community Center. The two had spent nearly 20 years together in Brazil before Sister English returned to the United States in 1985.

In the card, Sister Stang wrote: "Yes, we are in a great struggle, and the sense of solidarity is our source of life."

Sister English received the note Feb. 11. The next day she learned that "Dot," her 73-year-old "sister, colleague, friend and co-madre" had been shot four times in the chest and head by a pair of gunmen while she was visiting a remote rural encampment near Anapu, on the outskirts of the Amazon jungle.

Sister Stang had been a missionary in Brazil for almost 40 years, and for the past 22 years she worked in the Amazon with the poor and landless as she joined in the struggle to preserve the rain forest.

Sister English, 71, had just returned from the funeral of another nun when she got a phone call about Sister Stang's death. Sister English was shocked and grief-stricken, but not surprised.

"It wasn't that this could happen, because it could have happened to any one of us at any time," she said.

She knew that her friend had been on a hit list, and she remembered how the danger of being killed had been almost ever-present when she worked in Brazil during the years of the military dictatorship of the 1960s and '70s.

"We lived with landowners and people that were hired by big companies who terrorized with guns and machine guns," she said. But, the people for whom she and Sister Stang and other Sisters provided pastoral care "are the people you work with and love, and so you go on about your business. You can't allow yourself to be terrorized."

Sister English said her heart is full of memories of the woman who had wanted to be a missionary since she was a child, the woman she calls a pioneer and martyr.

After a 2004 visit, Sister English said Sister Stang told her: "I have learned that faith sustains you, and I have also learned that three things are difficult: One, as a woman to be taken seriously in the struggle for land reform; two, to stay faithful to believing that these small groups of poor farmers will prevail in organizing and carrying their own agenda forward; and three, to have the courage to give your life in the struggle for change."

Supreme Court rejects request to reconsider Roe vs. Wade

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Feb. 22 turned down a request that it reconsider its 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling that legalized abortion.

Norma McCorvey, who was identified as "Jane Roe" in the 1973 case, and Sandra Cano, the "Mary Doe" of the companion Doe vs. Bolton ruling, petitioned the court to set aside the decisions, or at least order a new trial on the merits for reversal.

Neither Cano nor McCorvey ever had the abortions at issue in their cases. Both women now oppose abortion. Their effort to see the Roe and Doe decisions overturned is backed by 33 women from 19 states who say they regret having had abortions.

Without comment, the court rejected the appeal.

Americans United for Life said the problem is the court's current makeup.

"The justices' refusal to consider this case shows that they won't consider the growing evidence that abortion hurts

women physically, emotionally and psychologically," said Dorinda Bordlee, senior legislative counsel for Americans United for Life.

"While unfortunate, the decision from this court was expected. This proves the need for justices who will respect self-government," said Bordlee. "In a matter as weighty as this, the people should decide, not unelected judges."

The Roe decision threw out most state restrictions on abortion, while the Doe decision permitted abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia have said Roe was wrongly decided and should be overturned.

However, it is rare for the court to reopen a case based on changed circumstances. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in September threw out the lawsuit, saying McCorvey's claims were no longer relevant because the Texas abortion ban of that era had long ago been repealed.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Father Frank Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church, will share his wisdom from leading pilgrimages all over the world as part of "In the Footsteps of Pilgrims: Historic Travels of Faith," a gallery exhibit and lecture series on religious pilgrimages hosted by UNC Asheville. The lunchtime lecture will take place March 1, 12:15-1 p.m. in the Highsmith University Union Gallery, 1 University Heights. For more information, call UNC Asheville's Center for Diversity Education at (828) 232-5024.

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., will hold a Lenten Mission March 6, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. Msgr. Michael Flanagan of Cross International will present the mission, "Living in the Peace of God's Love and Healing." Cross International was founded to forge a meaningful link between parishes in America and the bishops, priests, nuns and lay leaders working overseas in places like Africa, Belize, Trinidad, Haiti and the Philippines. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. John McSweeney will be giving presentations on what *Vatican II* was and its importance to the Church. All sessions will meet in the New Life Center, room 102, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The program meets Mondays, March 7 and 21; and April 4 from 7-8:15 p.m. or Tuesdays, March 1, 8 and 22; and April 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Childcare is available by reservation at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will host "Weaving One Heart: Welcoming the Stranger" March 6, 12:30-

4:30 p.m. This educational forum will provide an overview on the plight of refugees and offer suggestions on how parishes can welcome and foster relationships with refugees resettling in the Charlotte region. The speaker will be Mary Morton from the Office of Migration and Refugee Services, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The event is sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace and the Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services. Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for further information and to register, or call Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will be the celebrant at a Mass celebrating the gifts of those with mental retardation March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Parishioners and visitors with varying degrees of mental retardation will serve as musicians, lectors, greeters and ushers. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy, St. Gabriel disABILITY Ministry, at (704) 364-6964.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host the monthly meeting of the Gaston Coalition for a Moratorium Now (GCMN) March 3, 7-8 p.m. in the Msgr. Anthony Kovacic Center. GCMN is a grassroots organization calling for the reform of North Carolina's capital punishment system, through educational forums, contacting state legislators and execution vigils. Contact George Burazer for more information at (704) 822-6350.

BELMONT — A Lenten Supper-Study Series will take place in the Msgr. Anthony Kovacic Center at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Wednesdays, March 2 and 9. A shared meal begins at 6 p.m., and catechesis begins at 6:45 p.m. The theme this season is "The Eucharist as Sacrament, as Devotion, as Uniter/Divider and as Way of Life." Free and open to all — no fees or pre-registration necessary.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope issues letter on recent trends in media, communications

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has written an apostolic letter on recent trends in media and communications, the Vatican said.

The letter, titled "The Rapid Development," was released at a Vatican press conference Feb. 21. The letter was relatively brief — under 20 pages — and addressed primarily to those responsible for social communications.

In addition to looking at the way Catholics can and must use the media and interact with them, the pope called for greater public involvement with the running of newspapers, television and radio stations.

"If the communications media are a good destined for all humanity, then ever-new means must be found ... to make possible a true participation in their management by all," the pope said.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley,

president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, addressed the press conference, along with other officials of the pontifical council.

Last year, the pope met with pontifical council members as they marked the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Instruments of Social Communication ("Inter Mirifica").

That decree called on members of the church, especially laity, to instill a "human and Christian spirit" into newspapers, magazines, books, films, radio and television.

For many years, the pope has issued an annual message to mark the World Day of Social Communications. In recent years, the pontifical council has issued a document on media ethics and two documents on the Internet.

Please call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Anyone currently unemployed or concerned about their present employment situation is invited to attend the *Re-employment Support Group* held in the Parish Life Center, Room 8, of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will meet March 3, 17 and 31, April 14 and 28 and May 12 and 26, 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, call Colleen Assal, (294) 4696, ext. 226. Anyone with knowledge of job opportunities is asked to call Colleen to share them with the group.

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford County Division*, will hold its monthly meeting March 3 in the St. Pius Church Kloster Center meeting room, 2210 North Elm St., at 7:30 p.m. The division is having an "Irish Cream Tea" March 16 at 3 p.m. at the O. Henry Hotel, 624 Green Valley Rd. For more information, contact Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014 or Marilyn Conte at (336) 632-1340.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will present its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat* at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by coffee and light refreshments. The retreat dates are Thursdays, March 3, 10 and 17. This is an opportunity for all of us to do something extra during Lent. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service will be held at First Presbyterian Church March 4 at 7 p.m. This bilingual service was written by Christian Women of Panama. The theme is "Let Our Light Shine." The guest speaker will be Emmanuel Gitlin. A native of Poland, he is professor emeritus of religion at Lenoir-Rhyne College. For more information, contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 5 — 11 a.m. Mass
Institution to Ministry of Lector
Permanent Diaconate Candidates and Rite of Recommitment St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Vatican, Israeli representatives meet in Jerusalem, set more meetings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an ongoing attempt to negotiate agreements called for by a 1993 treaty, Vatican and Israeli representatives met Feb. 17 in Jerusalem and agreed to hold further meetings in March and April.

A source close to the Vatican negotiators told Catholic News Service the meeting lasted less than three hours, but after a December meeting was canceled and a January meeting was postponed the fact that the two sides met was positive.

The 1993 Fundamental Agreement between the Vatican and Israel, which led the way to full diplomatic relations, specified that further negotiations were to be held to develop treaties on legal and fiscal issues.

The current talks are focused on the church's long-standing exemption from local property taxes — an exemption the government unilaterally revoked in 2002 — and on the Vatican's insistence that property disputes involving the church be resolved in a court of law, not by politicians.

On the Israeli side, the Vatican source said, "there were promises and assurances of good faith. We are awaiting further developments."

"There is openness on the Israeli side, but we are waiting for that to be translated into a text," which would be

legally binding on both sides, he said.

"The problems are not technically difficult," he said, but the Israeli government must decide whether concrete relations with the Catholic Church will continue to be a matter handled politically by the government or will be normalized and recognized in Israeli law.

The choice, he said, is that issues involving the Catholic Church and church property in Israel would continue to be "determined by executive order or begin to be determined by rule of law. Will they move from a situation of control to mutually agreed rights and duties?"

The source said he is convinced that the Feb. 17 meeting would not have taken place at all if the U.S. government had not put pressure on the Israeli government to return to the negotiations.

Israeli Franciscan Father David Jaeger, an expert on Vatican-Israeli relations, told Vatican Radio: "There was a good atmosphere. The people involved have known each other for some time" and are committed to concrete results.

The Israeli ambassador to the Vatican, Oded Ben-Hur, told Vatican Radio: "Obviously, I share this sense of optimism. The serious intention and the good will on the part of Israel to arrive, finally, at the conclusion of these negotiations have been understood."

Buzzing at the spelling bee



COURTESY PHOTO BY PAM GENDOECS

Students from various Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools participated in the MACS spelling bee, hosted by St. Matthew School Jan. 20. The winner was Patrick O'Brien from St. Gabriel School; the runner-up was Kacie Watson from Our Lady of the Assumption School. FOR MORE SCHOOL NEWS, SEE PAGE 6.

Galveston-Houston now an archdiocese

HOUSTON (CNS) — With the reading of the papal decree during a special Mass Feb. 16 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Houston, the establishment of Galveston-Houston as an archdiocese became official.

The decree was read by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Pope John Paul II divided the state of Texas into two ecclesiastical provinces Dec. 29, making Galveston-Houston an archdiocese and the metropolitan see for six other eastern Texas dioceses — Austin, Tyler, Beaumont, Victoria, Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

The other archdiocese in the state, San Antonio, remains the metropolitan see for seven other dioceses — Dallas, Fort Worth, Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo, Laredo and El Paso.

Ninth annual St. Pat's parade coming to Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — The Ninth Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival will take place in uptown Charlotte on Saturday, March 12.

James Babb, president of Babb Communications, will serve as grand marshal and Moira Quinn, interim president and senior vice president for communications for Charlotte Center City Partners, will be deputy grand marshal.

Catholic schools and other local Catholic organizations, including the Knights of Columbus and Ancient Order of Hibernians, were among the 80 groups marching in last year's parade. This year's parade, which runs along Tryon Street past St. Peter Church, is expected to be the largest yet.

The festival, which is free and open to the public, will feature live Irish music, food, activities for children and an "Irish Marketplace," which will feature Irish arts and crafts.

The headline band will be The Wolfe Tones' Derek Warfield on tour direct from Ireland. The Federal Brothers Band also will perform throughout the day, as well as performances by Mulligan's Banned and Rince na H'Eireann School of Irish Dance and Walsh Kelley School of Irish Dance.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

An unidentified "leprechaun" marches in last year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte. This year's parade is scheduled for March 12.

WANT TO GO

The free parade begins 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, at Tryon and Stonewall Streets and runs north up Tryon Street. The free festival, which runs 10 a.m.-10 p.m., will be at the corner of Tryon and 3rd Streets. For more info, call Linda Dyer Hart at (704) 542-6846 or go online at www.charlottestpatsday.com.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Are you Catholic, but your spouse is not? Were you married in a Catholic church? If you have an "interfaith family" and would like to share your story in an upcoming issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

FOR THE LEAST AMONG US Kernersville Knights raise funds for local organizations

KERNERSVILLE — On behalf of the The Lamb Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., the Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville reported Feb. 16 that it had raised almost \$22,000 in 2004 to benefit mentally handicapped adults and children in North Carolina.

"Eighty five percent of this amount will be distributed to requesting organizations in Forsyth County and will be combined with funds raised by three other Knights of Columbus councils in Forsyth County," said David Thomas, the council's 2004 local coordinator.

The funds will be distributed to the organizations during a private dinner at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem March 10.

"The North Carolina State Knights of Columbus will distribute the remaining 15 percent," said Thomas.

The councils in Forsyth County have raised more than \$92,000 the past three years to support both local and state organizations for schools with mentally handicapped programs. One hundred percent of all funds raised is used for charitable purposes as designated.

"We enjoyed an extremely fine campaign along with the dedicated time and effort of so many workers," said Fred Hogan, council publicity

'We enjoyed an extremely fine campaign along with the dedicated time and effort of so many workers.'

chairman. "Many of them came from outside our parish limits, willing to assist as they knew of the 'good and generous' outcome of this particular charitable program."

The Knights of Columbus, an international service organization founded in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., has more than 1.5 million members worldwide. The Knights emphasize charity in each council's local community.

The services the Knights provide are entirely volunteer and range from fund-raising for the underprivileged to highway cleanup efforts. In December 2004, Council 8509 collected 17 bags of garbage and a large bag of aluminum cans along Hastings Hill Road in Kernersville.

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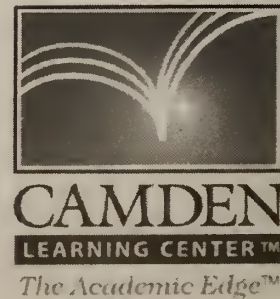
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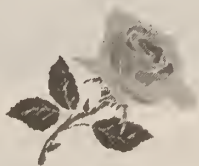
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FROM THE COVER

'May the Lord repay her abundantly for the great and hidden service she gave the church.' — Pope John Paul II

Pope, cardinal talk of last Fatima visionary

FATIMA, from page 1

cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, were beatified — a step toward sainthood — in 2000.

Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, who celebrated Sister Lucia's funeral in the pope's name, discussed all three issues with the press.

In 2000, when Pope John Paul II, who met Sister Lucia three times, ordered the publication of the so-called "third secret" of Fatima — a description of a vision the Blessed Virgin Mary showed the children — groups such as the Canadian-based Fatima Center immediately began claiming that the publication was incomplete and the Vatican was hiding something.

And when Sister Lucia died, the Fatima Center posted a message on its Web site saying it would continue a "campaign for the release of the full third secret."

But Cardinal Bertone, who had spent hours with Sister Lucia discussing the third secret and the Vatican's interpretation of it before it was published, categorically denied anything remains a secret.

"I can say, without any doubt, that it is absolutely certain that everything having to do with the secret of Fatima has been revealed and that the third part of the secret is contained in the four pages that we published in their entirety and which correspond exactly to the letter written personally by Sister Lucia," Cardinal Bertone said Feb. 14 before flying to Portugal for the funeral.

The cardinal said he was aware that people, despite the affirmations of Pope John Paul, continue to claim there is more to the secret, but he insists the Vatican published everything in its possession.

"I explicitly asked Sister Lucia if she had written something before or after what has been published of the third secret. She herself confirmed that she



CNS FILE PHOTO FROM KNA

Sister Lucia dos Santos meets with Pope John Paul II May 13, 1982, in Fatima, Portugal. The pope credited the Virgin Mary with helping him to survive the assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican one year earlier, on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

had written nothing either before or after," Cardinal Bertone said.

'Great and hidden service'

Pope John Paul II said he was deeply moved when he heard that Sister Lucia "was called by the heavenly Father to his eternal dwelling place."

Sister Lucia died in the Carmelite cloister in Coimbra, Portugal, at 97.

"I remember with emotion the various meetings I had with her and the bonds of spiritual friendship that intensified with the passing of time," Pope John Paul said.

"May the Lord repay her abundantly for the great and hidden service she gave the church," the pope wrote to Bishop Albino Mamede Cleto of Coimbra.

The Portuguese girl was only 10 years old when she and her two younger cousins claimed they saw the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917. The Catholic Church has ruled that the apparitions and the messages from Our Lady of Fatima were worthy of belief.

In 2000, Pope John Paul ordered the publication of the so-called "third secret" of Fatima, which he believed referred to the 20th-century persecution of the church under Nazism and communism and spoke of the 1981 attempt to assassinate him.

The pope was shot May 13, 1981, the anniversary of the first of the Fatima apparitions.

Pope John Paul has said he believes Mary saved his life that day; he sent one of the bullets removed from his abdomen to Fatima, where it is part of the crown on the statue of Our Lady.

Cardinal Bertone was asked by reporters to comment on the number 13.

"The fact that the number 13 connects almost all the apparitions and was the date of the attempted assassination of the pope is something more than simple coincidence, I think," the cardinal said.

"In the same way, I think it is a heavenly sign that the Madonna called

Sister Lucia to herself precisely on the 13th of February," the cardinal said.

The cardinal said people should remember the 13th of each month, "not out of superstition," but simply because God and the Blessed Virgin Mary had done extraordinary things on that date in the past.

Cardinal Bertone said he last visited Sister Lucia in November 2003 and told her that he would come visit her again.

"She told me that I would not see her alive again, but that I would come only to bless her casket. She knew even this," the cardinal told reporters.

"I am not saying this was a prophecy, but it was the simple truth," he said.

Beatifying the visionary

After the funeral, Cardinal Bertone confirmed that Sister Lucia's computer and all the letters, diaries and other written material found in her cell at the cloister had been collected and sealed.

"They will be examined one by one in the process for her beatification, which will begin soon," the cardinal said.

However, Cardinal Bertone did not give any timeline for the official opening of her cause, nor did he indicate whether he thought Pope John Paul would waive church rules requiring a five-year waiting period before the process could begin.

Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari, postulator of the cause for Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta, said he personally believes it is important to wait.

"We must avoid the danger of people thinking that she is being beatified or canonized just because of the visions," he said Feb. 16.

"The apparitions of Our Lady and what Our Lady said certainly had an impact on Sister Lucia's life," he said, but they did not make her holy.

"She accepted the message and she lived according to the message for more than 80 years, offering her life for the sake of sinners. This is holiness, not just receiving the grace of a vision," the Jesuit said.

The five-year wait allows the church to confirm that a large number of the faithful around the world recognize in a prospective saint a special way of living the Christian faith and helping "bring God's love, mercy and goodness into the world because she modeled her life on the life of Jesus Christ," Father Molinari said.

In his message to Bishop Cleto, the pope said that with her death Sister Lucia "reached the goal she always aspired to in prayer and in the silence of the convent."

"Sister Lucia leaves us an example of great fidelity to the Lord and of joyfully following his divine will," the pope wrote.

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PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Seventh-graders at Asheville Catholic School learn to read and write Japanese during part of a two-day workshop in February.

Asheville Catholic students learn art of Japanese writing

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — In conjunction with their ongoing studies of Japan, seventh-graders at Asheville Catholic School were recently treated to a two-day workshop on the art of Japanese writing and language taught by a World War II veteran.

Bryan Battey, who learned Japanese in the U.S. Navy and served as a translator for captured Japanese soldiers, showed the students the history of the written Japanese language as an art form of symbols and characters dating back to 700 A.D.

School librarian Pamela Budd, who spent three weeks in Japan in November as part of a Fulbright Memorial Fund Teaching Program, saw Battey's demonstration at an Asheville Arts Council showcase and invited him to enrich the seventh-graders' study of Japan.

Battey taught the students how to write many of the Japanese characters and form basic radicals, or root words, from which other words are formed.

By the second session, students were asking about "stroke order" and "key strokes" of characters, and how to form different words.

In addition to how to write Japanese words, Battey also taught the students

the cultural significance of many words in the language.

The Chinese originally carried the first written language to Japan to teach about Buddhism, Battey explained.

"They kept the pictures simple so the uneducated could learn the language quickly," he said.

For example, said Battey, to express a loud noise, a symbol of three women talking was used. For louder noises, the characters representing four dragons were used.

The seventh-graders were familiar with the Japanese word "samurai," so Battey explained that samurai began as a group of men to defend against bandits who were stealing grain from wealthy farmers. But in time, some samurai began taking advantage of the poor, forcing them to pay for protection; thus, the symbol for samurai eventually became one for an unsavory person.

Students also learned the symbol for nine with round trip ("maru") is, according to Battey, included in "all seagoing cargo vessels in Japan, because they believe the ship will go off and never be seen again without it."

Teacher Sue Banks said the students were very interested in the workshop.

"They really got into this," she said.

Catholic student band members honored, perform in local events

CHARLOTTE — As a result of recent auditions, students from Charlotte Catholic High School and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte gained membership in area honors band and orchestra programs.

Several Charlotte Catholic students were selected for the South Central All District Concert Band Festival, which took place Jan. 29-31 in Mooresville. The top students from instrumental music programs across a six-county area are picked annually for the band.

Charlotte Catholic students selected were Kris Bahar, Deanna Becker, Mark Binetti, Jenna Harper, Megan Hermance, Alexandra Reinhart and Emily Sharp, with Emily Freeman and Kaitlin Gilbride picked as alternates.

In addition, Charlotte Catholic's Chelsey Conrad, Andrew Randazzo and Andrew Mack were selected for the All District Jazz Band Festival, a new event planned this year for Feb. 28 at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory.

A number of students from Holy

Trinity Catholic Middle School also were selected for the All District Concert Band Festival. They were Alexandra Boss, Ryan Brennan, Eric Gleeson, John Luttrell, Becca Mack, Keagan Maryman, Evan Peleaux, Carianne Schlie and Hilary Sharp. Maggie Luttrell was selected as an alternate.

Charlotte Catholic High School Band plans to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte March 12, the South Central District Band Festival in Shelby and the North American Music Festival in New York in April.

Holy Trinity's sixth-grade band will perform the home opening game of the Charlotte Knights baseball season this spring, while the eighth-grade band will participate in the Smoky Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, Tenn., in May.



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WRITERS SOUGHT !

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte,
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



Spiritual foundation for the Liturgy of the Word

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 9

For the last several weeks, we have been considering the Introductory Rites of the Mass. We discovered that as the highest form of prayer, the Mass teaches us how to pray.

The Mass begins with the Penitential Rite, which allows us the opportunity to confess our need for God's abundant mercy. Likewise, prayer begins with the humble recognition of one's inadequacy in the presence of God.

After recognizing our sinfulness and God's abundant mercy, we are moved to praise and adore the Blessed Trinity in the ancient hymn known as the Gloria. Likewise, prayer moves from humility and repentance to praise and adoration.

Finally, the Introductory Rites of the Mass reach their culmination and fulfillment in the Opening Collect or Prayer. The celebrant collects the petitions and intercessions of the sacrifice and implores the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. Prayer, as in the Mass, then moves from praise and adoration to petition and intercession.

So far, the Introductory Rites of the Mass teach us that prayer has the following form: humility, praise and petition. But there is still a further component to prayer, beyond the scope of what we have already accomplished. We must listen to the voice of the Lord. We must be receptive to the Word of God.

Prayer, too, becomes more receptive and meditative as we listen to the voice of God. And so, the Mass moves from the Introductory Rites to the Liturgy of the Word. The congregation is seated to listen attentively as God instructs his people.

Perhaps the most beautiful papal teaching on the holy sacrifice of the Mass, "Mediator Dei," written by Pope Pius XII in 1947, explains the encounter with Christ in the Liturgy of the Word:

"In the sacred liturgy, the whole Christ is proposed to us in all the circumstances of his life, as the Word of the eternal Father, as born of the Virgin Mother of God, as he who teaches us truth, heals the sick, consoles the afflicted, who endures suffering and who dies; finally, as he who rose triumphantly from the dead, and who, reigning in the glory of Heaven, sends us the Holy Paraclete, and who abides in his Church forever...."

"The liturgy shows us Christ not only as a model to be imitated but as a

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



master to whom we should listen readily, a shepherd whom we should follow, as author of our salvation, the source of our holiness and the head of the mystical body whose members we are, living by his very life....

"Hence, the liturgical year, devotedly fostered and accompanied by the Church, is not a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, or a simple and bare record of a former age. It is rather Christ himself, who is ever living in his Church (No. 151-153; 163-165)."

In other words, Pope Pius XII teaches that the Liturgy of the Word is not a simple recounting of historical events; it is not merely the formal reading of sacred texts; it is not a quaint reminder of our past; but rather the recapitulation of the saving work of our Lord.

Through the faithful proclamation of salvation history found in sacred Scripture, we gain access to the saving mysteries of our faith. The events of the past are brought into the present. The mysteries of the life of Our Lord are brought into light today to continue and to fulfill the work of salvation in each generation.

Christ continues his redemptive activity, his mission of teaching the truth that sets us free. As his present day disciples, we have a privileged place of honor sitting at the feet of the master, listening to him, listening to the voice of the good shepherd who leads us to eternal life.

St. John Eudes wrote, "We must continue to accomplish in ourselves the stages of Jesus' life and his mysteries and often to beg him to perfect and realize them in us and in his whole Church...." (Liturgy of the Hours, Friday, week 33).

Next week we will examine how the divine mysteries are unfolded as we look at the structure of the Liturgy of the Word.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews	Holy Redeemer Church	Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
Arden	St. Barnabas Church	Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Asheboro	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m.
Asheville	Basilica of St. Lawrence	daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Belmont Abbey	Mary, Help of Christians Church	daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
Boone	St. Elizabeth Church	first Fridays following the 12:15 p.m. Mass for one hour
Bryson City	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte	Our Lady of the Assumption Church	first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour
	St. Gabriel Church	perpetual adoration
	St. Matthew Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m.
	St. Peter Church	Saturday, in chapel
	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	first Fridays following the 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
	St. Vincent de Paul Church	Friday evenings, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; first Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m.
Clemmons	Holy Family Church	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
Concord	St. James the Greater Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m.
Denver	Holy Spirit Church	first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 p.m. Saturday
Forest City	Immaculate Conception Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8-9 a.m.
Franklin	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Gastonia	St. Michael Church	eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
Greensboro	St. Paul the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Hendersonville	Immaculate Conception Church	first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
Hickory	St. Aloysius Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
High Point	Christ the King Church	first Fridays: call church for time
	Maryfield Chapel	perpetual adoration
Huntersville	St. Mark Church	Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Jefferson	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Kannapolis	St. Joseph Church	Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. ending with Benediction and followed by a Spanish charismatic prayer group; Fridays, 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m., ending with Benediction and followed by bilingual Mass
Kemersville	Holy Cross Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
Lenoir	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Saturdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m.
Lexington	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Fridays following morning Mass until 5 p.m.; Benediction following 11 a.m. Mass Sundays
Lincolnton	St. Dorothy Church	Fridays, 6-7 p.m.
Linville	St. Bernadette Church	Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass
Marion	Our Lady of the Angels Church	first Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m. followed by Benediction and Mass. For Spanish-speaking parishioners, 6-8 p.m.
Mocksville	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays at 11 a.m.; Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Monroe	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.-12 a.m.
Mooresville	St. Therese Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 4:45 p.m.
Mt. Airy	Holy Angels Church	Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Newton	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
Salisbury	Sacred Heart Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Spruce Pine	St. Lucien Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Statesville	St. Philip the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Swannanoa	St. Margaret Mary Church	first Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.
Sylva	St. Mary Church	first Saturday following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
Thomasville	Our Lady of the Highways Church	first Fridays, 12-7 p.m.
Tryon	St. John the Baptist Church	Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Waynesville	St. John the Evangelist Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem	St. Leo the Great Church	first Fridays following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m., except during summer months

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FROM THE COVER

Diocese in compliance with charter

CHARTER, from page 1

the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection prepared the report for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Review Board, appointed by the bishops to monitor compliance with the charter. The all-lay review board approved the report before it was sent to the USCCB.

The charter was approved by the bishops in 2002 and calls for an annual compliance report.

This was the second year in a row that on-site audits were done in dioceses, with much of the data based on self-reporting by church officials. While the charter requires the child protection office to issue annual compliance reports, it does not stipulate how to gather the data for the report.

The 46-county Diocese of Charlotte was audited for compliance during Aug. 16-20, 2004. It also was found in compliance during the first national audit report, released in January 2004.

"It is gratifying to continue to be in compliance with the charter," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis. "I will continue my daily prayers for all victims of abuse in our society."

Local statistics

During 2004, the Diocese of Charlotte spent \$48,172 on programs aimed at protecting children, including training and background checks of staff and volunteers — 4,502 staff and volunteers received the training and/or were subjected to background checks.

The diocese also provided \$15,385 in assistance to victims of abuse, all of which was used for counseling services. No money was paid for settlements or attorneys' fees. No funds from parish collections or the Diocesan Support Appeal were used for the assistance.

Also during the year, the diocesan Review Board investigated one complaint, which was made regarding an incident alleged to have happened in the 1970s. The board found the complaint not credible. Bishop Jugis concurred and no further action was taken.

One priest was removed from active ministry in February 2004, when information about his service in another diocese was reported to officials of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, we have policies, programs, people and, most importantly, prayer to address this problem," said Bishop Jugis. "Prayer is the primary response for the people of God when confronted with something as evil as sex abuse."

National perspective

The 50-page audit report said that in 2004 there were 1,092 new allegations nationally of child sex abuse made against 756 diocesan and religious priests and deacons, with most of the alleged abuse taking place between 1965-74. It said 73 percent of the accused, prior to the allegation, had been removed from ministry or were dead or

missing. No breakdown of priests and deacons was given.

Half of the new allegations were against clergy who had been previously accused. Males accounted for 78 percent of the 1,083 accusers.

During 2004, the U.S. church spent \$158 million for sex abuse-related activities, with more than \$106 million paid in settlements to victims, the report said. The figures include money spent by religious orders. When added to other published figures, the U.S. church has now spent about \$1 billion in child sex abuse-related costs since the beginning of 1950.

The data on new allegations and spending came from a separately commissioned study done by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), based at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and incorporated into the final report by the bishops' child protection office.

The report also includes recommendations for improving policies. These include developing a mediation system for the resolution of allegations and an annual report by each diocese and eparchy with information about new allegations and costs.

"There is undoubtedly progress still to be made," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., USCCB president, in a cover letter to the report.

"Much of what dioceses face today is the result of past abusive behavior — often long past — and procedures are in place to deal with and put a stop to new instances of abuse that may be reported," he said.

Despite the almost-total compliance of dioceses and eparchies with the charter, "continued external oversight and evaluation (are) essential" since compliance "may improve or diminish over time," said the audit report.

An audit "does not ensure that all offenders or potential offenders have been appropriately removed from ministry," it added.

Breaking down the audit

The report is based on audits of 194 of the 195 U.S. dioceses and eparchies conducted by the Gavin Group Inc. of Boston and on data collected by CARA from dioceses, eparchies and religious orders.

Only the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., did not participate in the compliance audits. No reason was given in the report.

Of the 194 dioceses and eparchies audited, only seven were not compliant with one or more of the charter's 17 articles on Dec. 31.

This is a significant advance from the 2003 report, when 19 of the 191 dioceses and eparchies audited were not compliant with aspects of the charter.

Compliance was judged in two steps. First was the on-site audit, which judged the situation since the 2003 audit. Dioceses not in compliance with aspects of the charter were given "required actions" to remedy the situation and had until the end of the year to take the actions.

Initially, 50 dioceses received "required actions" with 43 taking the necessary actions by the end of 2004.

Regarding allegations and spending, CARA received responses from 181 dioceses and eparchies, representing 93 percent of the total, and from 158 religious



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Church officials answer reporters' questions on clergy sex abuse Feb. 18 to release the second report on implementation of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" in Washington.

communities representing 71 percent of the total U.S. male religious population.

Spending figures showed that 32 percent of the \$140 million spent by dioceses and eparchies was covered by insurance and 12 percent of the \$18 million spent by religious orders was covered by insurance.

The report said that the new allegations generally parallel the patterns of gender and age reported in the massive "nature and scope" study of clergy child sex abuse from 1950 to 2002 released last year by the National Review Board.

The "nature and scope" study conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York reported that 81 percent of the accusers were males while the 2004 audit showed that 78 percent were males. The John Jay study reported that 59 percent of the accusers were between 10 and 14 years old when the abuse began while the 2004 figures reported that 55 percent were in the same age group.

Other stats and recommendations

Other figures from the 2004 report include:

— 3,277 victims and some of their relatives received outreach services from dioceses.

— 43 priests were laicized.

— 56 allegations received before 2004 were judged false in 2004.

— 57 of the allegations made in 2004 were judged false.

The audit also reported major inroads in conducting background checks of clergy, lay employees and lay volunteers coming into regular contact with children. Important strides were also made in implementing "safe environment" education programs to prevent abuse. The background checks and education programs are considered crucial to long-term efforts to prevent child sex abuse.

Background checks have been conducted on 92 percent of the 34,874 diocesan priests needing them. All 13,559 deacons subject to background checks

Protecting God's Children

CHARLOTTE — In the Diocese of Charlotte, policies, procedures, programs and people are in place to combat the sin of sexual abuse of minors. They are:

— A written policy to deal with the sin of sexual abuse that was put in place in 1994. The "Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel" has been updated to reflect the values expressed in 2002 in the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

— The policy included the establishment of a review board, a group of volunteers not employed by the diocese, with the exception of one priest. The group includes a psychological counselor. Their role is to review allegations of abuse and to make recommendations to the bishop.

— Procedures that encourage people to come forward if they have witnessed or experienced sexual abuse. The procedures can be found on the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org. The diocese also encourages anyone who has been a victim to report the incident to civil authorities. The diocese will cooperate with any investigation.

— Lay people who serve as victims' assistance coordinators. Three coordinators are located in diocesan offices in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Asheville.

— Training for clergy, staff and volunteers. Since June 2002, more than 9,000 diocesan employees and volunteers have completed the Protecting God's Children Training Program to help them recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of children. The diocese has also implemented a version of Protecting God's Children for minors.

— Background investigations for clergy, volunteers, teachers and contractors who have contact with minors.

have been screened.

More than 97 percent of the 185,924 Catholic school educators have had background checks. More than 85 percent of the 207,817 other church lay employees have been screened. And almost 79 percent of the 978,172 church volunteers have had background checks.

The report said that background screenings and evaluations also take place for priesthood candidates in the 112 seminaries run by the dioceses and eparchies audited.

Recommendations in the 2004 report for improving sex abuse prevention programs include:

— Special outreach to clergy and religious who have been victims of sexual abuse.

— Developing practices for monitoring priests and deacons at risk as offenders.

The report notes that the church needs to continually develop new prevention initiatives because full implementation of current policies "will not ensure that no child will ever be abused again in a church environment."

It asks Catholics to be "unwavering in our commitment to ensuring the accountability of all Catholic bishops of the United States to their people in the future and to the safety of all our children."

Agostino Bono and David Hains contributed to this story.

FROM THE COVER

Bishop celebrates rite of election in diocese

RCIA, from page 1

during the rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Thomas Aquinas Church Feb. 19. This was one of three such events that took place in the diocese.

During his homily, the bishop addressed the catechumens and candidates, saying, "Your presence at this rite this afternoon is evidence that Christ, our good shepherd, the risen savior, is indeed working in his church."

"He has spoken, saying, 'Come, follow me,' and you have responded to his call," Bishop Jugis said. "You would not be here if our Lord were not working in your life through his Holy Spirit."

The rite of election consists of the official enrollment of the names of those unbaptized adults, or catechumens, who seek baptism at the Easter Vigil Mass. Adults who were baptized in other Christian faiths, or candidates, are also introduced to the bishop at this time.

On Feb. 13, catechumens and candidates from the eastern counties of the diocese participated in the rite at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. Parishes from the western counties gathered for the rite Feb. 20 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden. The diocesan commission on the RCIA designed the liturgical celebrations for the Diocese of Charlotte.

A journey of faith

The rite of election and call to continuing conversion is one of several steps along

the journey, following a period of discernment and study of the Catholic faith.

Before formally beginning the RCIA process, a person considers his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and their interest in joining the Catholic Church. This period is known as the period of evangelization and pre-catechumenate.

After discerning their desire to join the Catholic Church, the inquirers may decide to continue the process and enter the period of the catechumenate, when they study the history and practice of Catholicism. This stage can last for a few months or for as long as several years.

The third formal stage is the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, which occurs during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. During the Mass, catechumens receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, and candidates are confirmed and receive the Eucharist. At this time, they become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

Following initiation at the vigil Mass, a final period of formation and education continues in the stage known as mystagogy. During this period, which lasts until Pentecost or later, the neophytes reflect on the events of the Easter Vigil and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Celebrating the call

In a continuing effort to reach out to the increasing Spanish-speaking population of the diocese, the rite of election

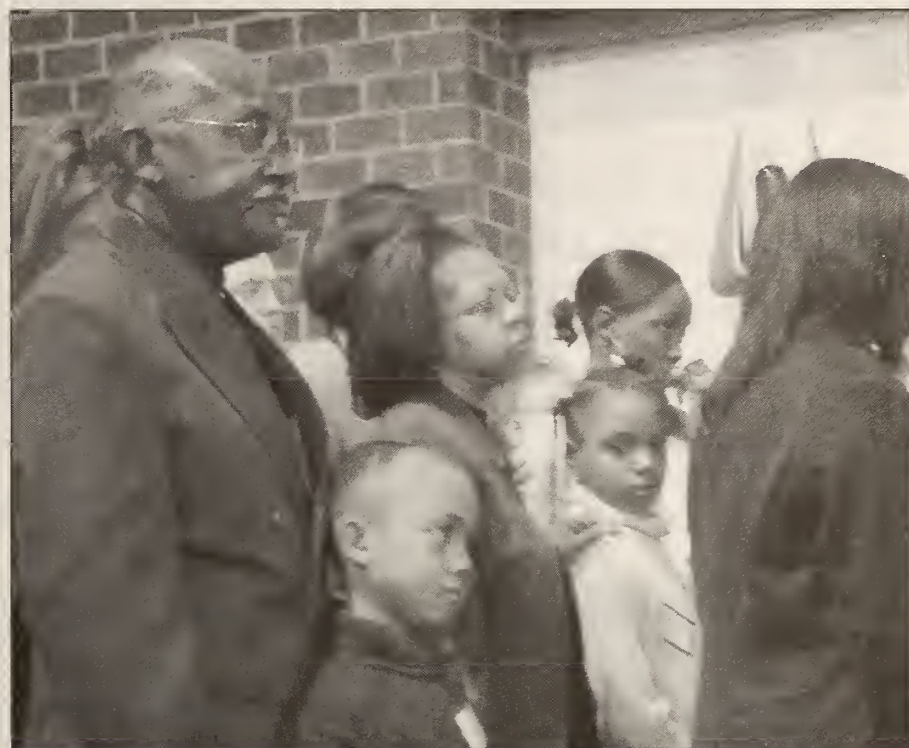


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Catechumens gather on the altar during the rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Feb 19.

and call to continuing conversion was celebrated in both English and Spanish. The readings alternated between the two languages, and hymns were sung in both as well. Bishop Jugis completed his homily with a special welcome to the Hispanic participants in Spanish.

Bishop Jugis said the rites of election were joyful celebrations and the joy of all the participants was apparent.

"I was delighted as bishop to see such evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the diocese," said Bishop Jugis. "It was inspiring to see so many individuals wanting to celebrate the sacraments of initiation."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the RCIA ministry is currently undertaken by the Office of Faith Formation in lieu

of an office of liturgy. The faith formation office is supported by funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

"Given the 683 elect we received last year and probably about the same number this year, it is quite evident that Pentecost continues in our diocese and the Holy Spirit never ceases to call people to become disciples of Jesus," said Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs.



The Office of Faith Formation is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Bishops' committee sets up Web site where people can vote on Oscars

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' communications committee is urging people to cast their own vote for the Academy Awards by visiting their Web site.

Results will be posted on the site Feb. 28.

Visitors to the Web site can vote on Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director and Best Movie of the Year and on awards in a handful of other categories. The chance to vote continues through Feb. 27, the date of the annual presentation of the Oscars, which are voted on by members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Film & Broadcasting reviewed all of the movies nominated. Reviews include a description of the film, the USCCB classification of each movie's

suitability by age group, along with the rating given by the Motion Picture Association of America. In 2004, the office reviewed 225 movies.

New reviews are posted each week on the Web site (www.usccb.org/movies/index.htm), which receives more than 20,000 visits each month. A total of 297,484 visits was logged in 2004. The reviews are also carried by Catholic News Service.

Reviews also can be accessed through the movie review line, (800) 311-4222. The movie line, supported by the Catholic Communication Campaign, received more than 76,000 calls in 2004.

WANT TO VOTE?

To cast your vote for the Academy Awards, visit <http://www.usccb.org/movies/oscarvote2005.htm> online.

VIDEO REVIEW

Intriguing message found in 'Dust Factory'

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — In "The Dust Factory," a life-affirming family fantasy, a young boy (Ryan Kelley) — mute since witnessing his father's tragic death — falls from a bridge into the titular dream realm somewhere between this world and the next.

There he must confront his fears of mortality, guided by his grandfather (Armin Mueller-Stahl) and the friendship of a mercurial girl (Hayden Panettiere).

Written and directed by Eric Small, the intriguing film wrestles with heavy issues — death, loss and grief — in an imaginative way, but

its opaque narrative, freighted with surreal imagery, fogs the movie's underlying message: that despite its transience and unavoidable pain, life is ultimately worth embracing.

The home video release date of "The Dust Factory" is March 22.

Due to mature themes and some frightening images, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAR. 6, 2005

March 6, Fourth Sunday of Lent Cycle A Readings:

- 1) 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 5:8-14
- 3) Gospel: John 9:1-41

Faith allows us to see the divine

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I am an illustrator. That's amazing, since I can't draw very well.

I didn't study art, but somewhere in adulthood, when my faith life assumed central importance, I discovered that I was blessed to be able to express spiritual ideas through pen-and-ink drawings.

Still, I steered away from anything that called for rendering the human figure, because my "people" tended to have Picassoesque forms.

Nevertheless, I persevered, and a breakthrough came when I read "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" by Betty Edwards. The author noted that whether a person engages the brain's left or right hemisphere determines one's mental perception.

A right-handed person drawing with the left hand perceives an object differently than when drawing with the right hand and is particularly able to recognize "negative space," she said. For instance,

when drawing a hand, one would see the spaces between the fingers more prominently than the fingers themselves.

I tried it, and although my left-handed lines were shaky, the drawing was more accurate than anything I'd done with the right hand. I was amazed that simply holding the pencil in my left hand enabled me to "see" negative space.

This weekend's readings are about appearance and seeing. The blind man in the Gospel is given sight by Jesus; figuratively, he receives divine sight. Jesus explained that the man was blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

In the first reading, the Lord tells Samuel that human judgment is inadequate; one must seek God's perception and trust its truth.

In drawing, I realize that seeing the positive space of fingers carries all my preconceived notions of what fingers ought to look like. But when I see them differently — in the context of the negative space around them — those notions disappear and the fingers are allowed to take on their true appearance.

Jesus told the Pharisees that as long as they "see" only with human experience and expectation, they will be blind to God's divine ways, and their sin will remain. But if they will have faith enough to open themselves to a new way of seeing — put the pencil in the other hand, as it were — they will discover divine vision.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42;
Monday (Lenten Weekday), 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (St. Katharine Drexel)**, Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (St. Casimir)**, Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-141.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 6-12

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41;
Monday (Sts. Perpetua and Felicity), Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (St. John of God)**, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday (St. Frances of Rome)**, Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30;
Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.



Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of March:

Rev. John Huston	1976
Rev. Francis Gorham	1981
Rev. Robert A. Gibson	1987
Rev. Justin J. Pechulis	1983

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of the Diocese of Charlotte presents a*

HERITAGE TOUR

Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1



*Sponsored by the
African American Affairs Ministry
of the Diocese of Charlotte*

*Take a journey into the
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Savannah, visiting sites that played an integral
part in the life of Blacks in the early South —*

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- * Hilton Head
 - * Charleston — Catfish Row and Boone Hall Plantation
 - * Beaufort, SC — York Bailey Museum
 - * John's Island, St. Helena Island,
St. James Island, SC - an authentic presentation
of Gullah spirituals
 - * Savannah — Ralph Mark Gilbert Museum; free time
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A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due before March 18th.

The balance is due by April 15th.

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for information or send deposit with ALL names
and lodging requests to:

African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203

Catholic Early Childhood Center - Director
2-year-old through 5-year-old Pre Kindergarten

St. Michael's Catholic Early Childhood Center (ECC) in Cary, NC is seeking an energetic Director to lead our two, three, four and five-year-old Pre Kindergarten ECC. The beloved founding Director is retiring after 21 years of serving the St Michael's ECC. Cary, North Carolina is in the heart of the sun belt and has been named by Money Magazine as "...the hottest town in the eastern U.S." and one of the safest and most desirable places to live in America. Cary is located near the renowned Research Triangle Park and the major university cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic and currently a Director or Administrator of a Pre-School with at least three years experience. Candidates that have been preparing for, and desire administrative responsibilities are also welcome to apply. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and be eligible for a North Carolina license in Early Childhood Education. Compensation will include a salary commensurate with experience and an excellent benefits package.

So if you like living under blue skies nearly year round, are seeking a Catholic parish and an environment where you can nurture and challenge, and would relish the opportunity to lead a pre-school with waiting lists for most classes then please submit your credentials to:

ECC Director Search Committee
 St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
 Cary, NC 27513
 Or by email to: eccsearch@stmichaelcary.org

THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIVING RESUMES IS APRIL 1, 2005.

FULL-TIME CAMPUS MINISTER
DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

The Campus Ministry Department of the Diocese of Raleigh seeks to hire a person for a full-time position to serve as CAMPUS MINISTER AT NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, SHAW UNIVERSITY, AND ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE, historically Black colleges and universities in Durham and Raleigh, NC. The successful candidate will be a prayerful person who is familiar with and dedicated to the principles of "Empowered by the Spirit: A Pastoral Letter on Campus Ministry in the United States" and "What We Have Seen and Heard: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops of the United States." The candidate should also demonstrate excellent leadership, organizational, administrative, and computer skills. Prior Campus Ministry experience is preferred but not required. Letters of interest and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled; please submit to:

NCCU Campus Minister Search
 218 Pittsboro Street
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Diocese of Charlotte seeks a part-time Director of Young Adult Ministry. The position summary is as follows: responsible for the ongoing development of Diocesan Young Adult Ministry; reach out to young adults throughout the Diocese of Charlotte; provide for formation of young adult ministers; invite and enable young adults to serve others and develop close communication with parishes and collaborate with other community and parish young adults organizations.

Education, experience and skills required: active member of a Roman Catholic parish faith community; master's degree in theology or related field; experience in ministry with young adults. Send resume and references to: Fr. James Hawker, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Or e-mail jfhawker@charlottediocese.org. Resumes will be accepted until March 11, 2005.

COORDINATOR OF
ADULT FORMATION

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Coordinator of Adult Formation. Qualified candidates should have a college degree in the area of religious education or related work experience. This is a part-time position with its primary focus on the coordination of our Whole Community Catechesis Program and the RCIA Process. Qualified candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a firm commitment to the Church and its teachings. He or she will be expected to participate regularly in the community and sacramental life of the parish. Position is open immediately. Please submit resume to:

Fr. John Pagel
 St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
 919 Haywood Road
 Asheville, NC 28806

Diocesan Director of Development
for Catholic Schools

The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Must have two to three years of experience in fund raising and marketing. Must have experience with computer related programs. Responsibilities include managing two regional annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to regional schools foundation boards. Please submit resume by March 15, 2005 to:

Jim Kelley, Office of Development
 Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
 1123 South Church Street
 Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
 or email: jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

FROM THE COVER

Real ID decried as excessive

REAL ID, from page 1

House to reject the Real ID Act, H.R. 418, saying its provisions would weaken asylum protections, undermine national security and promote unsound public policy.

The bill would set nationwide standards for state-issued drivers licenses, prohibiting federal agencies from accepting licenses as identification for access to government buildings or air travel unless they meet the new requirements.

It also would raise the burden of proof of persecution for political asylum applicants and waive all laws that might affect plans to build new barriers on the southern border of the United States.

The bill was passed on a fast track over the objections of House Democratic leaders who pushed for it to be sent back through the usual process of public hearings and review by one or more House committees. Those steps were bypassed.

Persecuting innocence

In a Feb. 9 letter to members of Congress, Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the bishops' migration committee, said the bill's provisions would do little to prevent use of drivers licenses by terrorists, as its supporters claim. He said a homeland security bill passed two months earlier included an adequate provision to prevent use of licenses for fraudulent purposes.

As the National Council of State Legislatures said, according to Bishop Barnes, denying licenses to all people who are not legal residents would make the roads less safe, "because the number of unlicensed, untrained and uninsured drivers would increase dramatically and deny police officers the tools they need in investigating crime" or assisting people in distress.

Several states, such as North Carolina, have begun issuing drivers licenses without regard for the applicant's legal residency status as a way of helping ensure that all drivers have insurance and can be held accountable in case of accidents.

Bishop Barnes also criticized the bill's asylum provisions, which require applicants to prove they fled persecution on the basis of religion, nationality, race, social group or political opinion.

Bishop Barnes said the provisions ig-

nore the reality that those who flee persecution may not readily relate the horrors they faced and may not have brought corroborating evidence as they fled their home countries. He noted that terrorists are already barred from obtaining asylum, so the new provisions are unnecessary.

An exchange of hope

"A study of the economic policies between the United States and our southern neighbors would give many U.S. citizens a change of heart toward our brothers and sisters from south of the border," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Inkrott agreed with Bishop Barnes' assessment that denying licenses to non-legal residents would make the roads less safe and would do little to decrease people coming into the country.

"People come to the United States looking for what the majority of our own ancestors also came looking for — a way to overcome the unbearable economic situations that do not allow them to provide for their families," said Sister Inkrott.

"Unless the economic situations are improved in the countries of origin, there is no way that people will stay home and watch their families suffer," she said. "They will risk even death in the desert or attacks by robbers on their way to the promise of a better life for themselves and their families."

Bishop Barnes' letter also said the bill's provision to expedite construction of fences on the U.S.-Mexico border "would be a dangerously broad mandate that is almost without precedent."

"While the threat of terrorism to our country is a real one that requires our government to implement appropriate measures to be vigilant, we must make sure we address real threats and consider carefully unexpected negative outcomes," said Joseph Purello, director of Justice and Peace Office for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Expediting the building of more fences will likely make border crossings more treacherous as people seek relatively isolated, more lightly guarded crossing zones in wilderness areas," said Purello. "We must ask who will be harmed the most by increased exposure to the elements, long treks through isolated regions and the evil actions of smugglers and robbers who prey on migrants seeking a better life in the United States."

"Disturbingly, the bill would require waiving all laws, including, for example, laws against murder; laws protecting civil rights; laws protecting the health and safety of workers; laws providing for a minimum wage or prevailing wage; environmental laws and laws respecting sacred burial grounds," said Bishop Barnes.

It would also prohibit judicial review of any decision or action related to a section of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act, and bar courts from ordering compensatory relief for problems arising from border construction.

"Catholic social teaching calls us to weigh carefully the impact of any policy decision, such as one that would create a more extensive border fence network, on the poor and vulnerable," said Purello.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.



photo by David Snyder, CRS Staff

ధన్యవాదము
నன்றీ పాపములు
Terima Kasih
(Thank You)

THANK YOU for your magnificent outpouring of compassion to survivors of the tsunami catastrophe. Because of your generosity, CRS was able to quickly respond with food, clean water, shelter and the tools survivors need to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. And thanks to you, we have committed \$80 million to help families and communities in the hardest-hit areas of Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Their road to recovery is a long one, but we plan to work with them for the next five to seven years as they rebuild.

The response of the U.S. Catholic community proves that we do live in one human family — bound by compassion and inspired by hope. Your support is an inspiration to us at CRS. But more importantly, it is a source of hope for so many devastated by this disaster. Thank you, again, for your generosity and your prayers.

Please visit www.crs.org for the most recent updates on our tsunami response and our work to help the poorest of the poor around the world.

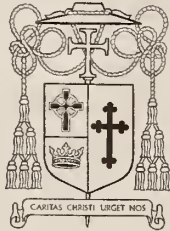


Catholic Relief Services is the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

A generous response to 'God's family'



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are aware, the people of South Asia are still suffering from the devastating effects of the earthquake and tsunamis that struck that region on Dec. 26, 2004. The tragic loss of life, the great threats to health and safety, and the enormous ongoing and long-term rebuilding efforts have led to a tremendous outpouring of prayers, material assistance and financial support from around the world.

The people of the Diocese of Charlotte have joined millions of others in answering the appeal for prayers and assistance to our brothers and sisters in South Asia. It is with great joy that I share with the people of the Diocese of Charlotte that a total of \$421,905 has been raised to date, primarily on behalf of the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), to assist in the South Asia earthquake and tsunami disaster recovery effort.

The response of generous donors from dioceses throughout our nation has enabled CRS to commit more than \$80 million to relief and recovery programs in the tsunami-impacted communities in South Asia. Life-saving assistance and urgently needed supplies have brought immediate relief, while plans for long-term rebuilding are being implemented.

The relationship of our diocese to CRS is a long and strong one. Previously responses to CRS disaster appeals and ongoing yearly support of the Operation Rice Bowl Lenten program have brought the people of the Diocese of Charlotte into deeper solidarity with the global community, especially our brothers and sisters in this world who are poor and suffering. I am pleased that once again so many families, parishes and schools of our diocese are participating in this 30th anniversary year of CRS Operation Rice Bowl.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II, in his World Day of Peace message of Jan. 1, 2005 prays that the "sons and daughters of the Church find in the supreme sacrament of love [the Eucharist] the wellspring of all communion: communion with Jesus the Redeemer and, in him, with every human being."

The generous response of the Catholic community to the millions of suffering people in South Asia is an incredible witness to the Holy Father's closing words, "by sharing in the one bread and the one cup, we come to realize that we are 'God's family' and that together we can make our own effective contribution to building a world based on the values of justice, freedom and peace."

I am very grateful for this outpouring of generosity from our diocese. Please join with me in thanking our Lord for the generous response of our diocese to the recent disaster in South Asia. We call upon the mercy of Jesus Christ for the souls of the departed and we continue to pray for the healing of those who suffer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Peter J. Jugis

Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis

Communal anointing of the sick

Q. Please explain communal anointing of the sick and when it may be received. My husband understands that the sacrament of anointing will take away all your sins. Is that what we believe? (Iowa)

A. In Catholic belief, forgiveness of sin always has been one effect of the sacrament of anointing of the sick. The primary biblical text about prayer and anointing of the sick (Jas. 5) says that "if he (the sick person) has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Exactly what this means, however, or how it happens is not spelled out. The Council of Trent, in its classic text on the sacraments, says the anointing "cleanses all sins yet to be expiated (forgiven or absolved), as well as any remainders of sin." This is the first effect of the anointing mentioned by the council (Session XIX).

Our present Catholic ritual for pastoral care of the sick teaches that, if necessary, the sacrament of anointing "also provides the sick person with the forgiveness of sins and the completion of Christian penance" (No. 6).

In all its major documents about this sacrament, the church professes that the sacrament also arouses trust in God's help to bear one's suffering in a holy way and may return the sick person to health if that would be helpful for salvation.

However one might explain these Catholic teachings, they fit with the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that "the anointing of the sick completes our conformity to the death and resurrection of Christ, just as baptism began it. It completes the holy anointings that mark the whole Christian life," baptism and confirmation. This last anointing, it continues, "fortifies the end of our earthly life like a solid rampart for the final struggles before entering the Father's house" (No. 1523).

Determining who should receive this sacrament also has changed over the years. For centuries, any seriously ill person was considered eligible for anointing. Later on, as most older Catholics still remember, it was thought of more as the "last rites," only for people actually dying. In fact, reception of this sacrament usually was delayed until the sick person reached as close as possible

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



to the moment of death.

Today the church again acknowledges more explicitly that the true sacrament for the dying is not anointing of the sick but the Eucharist. Christian tradition, in fact, gives a special name to holy Communion when it is received by the dying. We call it "viaticum," literally something to be with us and help us "on the journey" through death into eternity.

The anointing of the sick, therefore, may and should be received by anyone whose health is seriously impaired from sickness or old age. This includes those who have been anointed but are now suffering from a different illness, those who are to undergo surgery because of a serious sickness, sick children if they have sufficient use of reason to be comforted by this sacrament and old people who are weak from age, even if there is no dangerous illness present (Ritual for Care of the Sick, Nos. 8-12).

The ritual notes that no one should become overly demanding in determining how sick an individual must be. "A prudent or reasonably sure judgment, without scruple, is sufficient for deciding on the seriousness of an illness."

Communal anointings are ceremonies at which a number of people receive the sacrament within one celebration. These anointings may be either within the celebration of Mass or in a separate liturgy.

A free brochure in English or Spanish answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Arthur Miller and the oxygen of affirmation

Fictional characters have ties to reality

The death in February of Arthur Miller, at age 89, triggered an outpouring of praise for one of America's greatest playwrights. His 1949 classic "Death of a Salesman" is the only work I'll mention here.

His creation of Willy Lowman, the salesman who needed the oxygen of affirmation, and Willy's wife Linda, whose words provided it so movingly but unsuccessfully, was Miller's great contribution to our national treasury of dramatic memory.

We need great plays to help us better understand ourselves, to see our failures and regrets, and to learn how we might change.

Linda, aware of Willy's downward spiral of discouragement and eroding self-confidence, pleads with their two sons, Happy and Biff, to show their father more respect. "He's the dearest man in the world to me," she says, "and I won't have anyone making him feel unwanted and low and blue."

Biff tells her to "stop making excuses for him," and cruelly adds that Willy never respected her.

Linda replies: "Biff, I don't say he's a great man. Willy Lowman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He's not the finest character that ever lived. But he's a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So atten-

tion must be paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person."

Linda then urges her son to "be sweet to him tonight, dear. Be loving to him. Because he's only a little boat looking for a harbor."

Miller was 33 when "Death of a Salesman" opened on Broadway. At age 68 he said in an interview with the New York Times that he could see himself in the character of Willy Lowman, although when the play opened he tended to identify more with Willy's son Biff.

But now, "when Biff's yelling at Willy, he's yelling at me. I understand Willy. And I understand his longing for immortality — I think that's inevitable when you get older. ... Willy's writing his name on a cake of ice on a hot day, but he wishes he were writing in stone. He wants to live on through something. ... I think all of us want that, and it gets more poignant as we get more anonymous in the world."

Willy believed "a man has got to add up to something." He couldn't face living the rest of his life "ringing up a zero." Early in the play he says, "You're my foundation and support, Linda." But eventually Willy takes his own life.

At Willy's graveside, neighbor

Looking Around

FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST



Charley says to Biff: "Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He's a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine."

"And when they start not smiling back — that's an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory."

Our world is full of Willys, writing their names on cakes of ice. They need the gently heroic Lindas for support and encouragement. And all of us Willys and Lindas can be grateful to Arthur Miller for the spirit-sustaining insights that his genius left behind.

E-mail: wbyron@loyola.edu.

Lent time for sincere, profound conversion, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Sitting with two aides in his private library, Pope John Paul II used closed-circuit television to greet hundreds of pilgrims who had come for his weekly general audience.

The Vatican initially said the pope would come to the window of his apartment Feb. 23 to bless the pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. However, bad weather led officials to herd the pilgrims into the Vatican audience hall, where they saw and heard the pope on big television screens.

Except for the fact that the pope was not in the audience hall and did not spend half an hour shaking hands and blessing individual pilgrims, the Feb. 23 gathering had most of the ingredients of a normal weekly general audience.

After the pope made brief remarks in Italian about the Lenten season, Vatican aides introduced the pilgrim groups present. Then the pope offered them greetings in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish.

In English, he said: "I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims here today and thank you for your prayers. May your time in Rome be filled with joy and deepen your love for the universal church. God bless you all."

It was the first general audience following Pope John Paul's Feb. 10 release from the hospital for breathing difficulties. No audience was scheduled for Feb. 16 because of the annual Lenten retreat for the pope and his top aides.

While he was wheezing a bit, the pope read his introductory remarks with strength, even adding several phrases to the prepared text published by the Vatican press office.

"We are following the Lenten journey, which began Ash Wednesday, helped and stimulated by the liturgy which calls us to a particular commitment to prayer, fasting and penance and to a greater solidarity with our neighbors, especially the poor and needy," the pope said.

"The austere itinerary of Lent will lead us to the solemn celebration of Easter," he said. "Let us open our hearts to a sincere and profound conversion. May selfishness give way to love so that we can experience the joy of forgiveness and of intimate reconciliation with God and with our brothers and sisters."

Healing for those in need

Anointing of the sick brings God's grace to others

Sickness is one of the major worries in any life. Over the years I have seen what a comfort the sacrament of the anointing of the sick is to people. On occasion I have seen people healed either spiritually or physically.

In early December, we scheduled a "healing Mass" in our parish. We announced that anyone who wanted healing could come forward to be anointed. We had hoped to have an outside priest with a ministry of healing come, but no one was available. So it was just me to do the anointing and our two deacons to lay on hands in prayer.

When the night came for the healing Mass, the church was jammed — not just with our parishioners, but with people from other parishes and even some non-Catholics.

I preached on healing. I talked about various kinds of healing: the healing of memories; healing that comes with forgiveness; healing that comes with reconciliation; the healing of the troubled spirit as well and the infirm body.

I expected about a dozen or so people to come forward to be anointed and prayed over. We were overwhelmed when more than 250 people pressed forward. What we thought

would take only a few minutes consumed more than an hour.

The sick in body, mind and spirit lined up three and four deep across the front of the sanctuary. Many were accompanied by a companion.

As I came to each person, I leaned down to be told why a healing was wanted. Some had chronic conditions. Some had cancer or heart disease. Many mentioned things like depression. A few young people who were there came forward and said, "I want to be anointed for my uncle" or some other person.

I anointed the people with holy oil on the head and the hands. Then I laid my hands on each one's head. The deacons followed, laying hands on each head and praying over people for a while as I moved on to the next person.

After more than an hour I was exhausted. Sweat was pouring down my brow. Someone brought me a towel and a glass of water. I had to sit down. One woman came up to me afterward and said, "Who will anoint the anointer?" Good question.

It was a wonderful experience.

Over the following weeks, people would stop me and say, "My back is better," "My depression is lifted." Their healing had nothing to do with me, of

Parish Diary

FATHER
PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



course. It was the power of grace.

In one case, a young man came forward to be anointed for his uncle who was suffering from heart disease. A few days later the uncle agreed to be anointed in the hospital. The man had been away from the church for many years. He received absolution and Communion as well as anointing.

Since then he has come back to the sacraments. Sometimes the healing God gives is not what we intend but is what God knows we need.

When I was a young priest, I was skeptical about what good the anointing of the sick really did. It seemed so fruitless because it often was administered just moments before death.

But now, I see things differently. I have seen various kinds of healing: spiritual, physical and emotional. I have seen families healed by the experience.

God's grace is raining down on us all the time. Healing grace is always there. The anointing of the sick is just a way of taking down our umbrellas and letting that grace soak in to give us what we really want, healing.

A spirit of Christian love: St. Paul the Apostle touches many lives in Guilford County

GREENSBORO — The Catholic community of St. Paul the Apostle Church was founded in July 1974, when then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte invited the Paulist Fathers to create the fifth parish in the Guilford County seat.

The first pastor, Paulist Father Robert T. Scott, celebrated St. Paul the Apostle Church's first Mass at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. While a long-term, three-phase building plan was drawn up in those early days, the congregation first gathered at a number of Protestant churches and a funeral home for liturgies and parish celebrations.

As the number of families continued to grow from its original 90 to more than 350, the parish set its sights on constructing a church. Ground was broken in August 1975 for a multipurpose facility, and the parish gathered for its first Mass in the new 450-seat church in April 1976.

In addition to the central worship space, the new building also provided a chapel, kitchen and rooms for a nursery, classrooms, religious education offices and meeting rooms.

Bishop Begley served as celebrant at the dedication Mass in May 1976. Concelebrating was Paulist Father Thomas F. Stransky, then president of the Paulist Fathers, who delivered the homily, and Father Scott.

While the Paulists ministered to the ever-growing parish of St. Paul the Apostle Church, they also served in campus ministry to Catholic students attending Guilford College, Greensboro College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This ministry developed into the Catholic Student Fellowship.

Parish growth continued through the 1980s, both in the number of ministerial efforts and the size of the congregation.

The Paulist Fathers continued their pastoral at St. Paul the Apostle Church until 1991. That year, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales assumed pastoral leadership, and Oblate Father James O'Neill was appointed pastor.

The parish at that time was composed of almost 1,000 families, and Father O'Neill immediately began plans to enlarge the church facilities. The expansion, which yielded additional worship space, was dedicated by then-Bishop

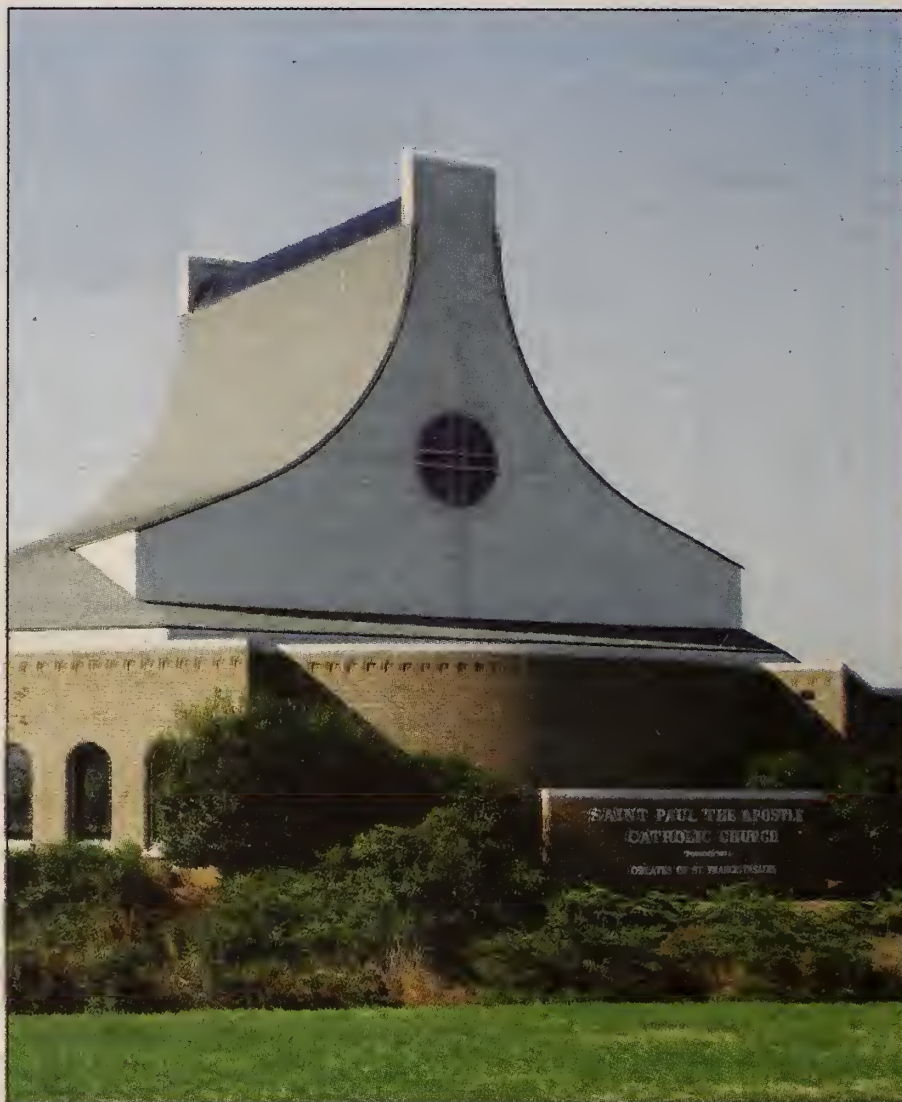


PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro has served Catholic in the Guilford County seat for more than 30 years.

John F. Donoghue in March 1993.

By 1998, the parish had grown to about 1,900 households with more than 5,500 people. On Oct. 21, 2001, then-Bishop William G. Curlin joined the parish family to celebrate the dedication of a new Parish Life Center, a facility providing a multipurpose room/gymnasium, additional meeting space and classrooms.

Father O'Neill continued to serve the Greensboro parish until April 2002. Oblate Father Tom Murphy, who came with Father O'Neill in 1991 as parochial vicar, returned in April 2002 as pastor.

Oblate Father William J. Ruhl assumed the pastorate of St. Paul the Apostle Church in July 2004.

The parish council has developed a vision statement that stresses St. Paul the Apostle Church's commitment to the Eucharist as the center of each parishioner's life. "Our Vision 2000" encompasses individual spirituality and community outreach as the model by which the St. Paul the Apostle Church family will continue to move through the new millennium.

An ecumenical outreach, which developed during the Paulist presence in Greensboro, continues today. The Catholic parish signed a covenant of cooperation with Cross of Christ Lutheran and St. Barnabas Episcopal churches, which were utilized by St.

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH
2715 Horse Pen Creek Road
Greensboro, N.C. 27410

Vicariate: Greensboro

Pastor: Oblate Father William J. Ruhl

Parochial Vicar:

Oblate Father Charles M. Chamberlain

Permanent Deacon:

Deacon Gordon L. Forester

Number of Households: 1,524

Paul parishioners in the early years for parish functions.

Emphasis on community — among the congregation and beyond — has been an important facet of parish life. In the mid-1970s, Father Scott brought a ministry to the parish for divorced and remarried Catholics. In 1978, the parish made local news when it "adopted" a family of Vietnamese refugees.

St. Paul the Apostle parishioners are known in the Greensboro community for their extensive involvement in outreach opportunities. The church is one of a small number of churches that participate in the Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network, a joint venture of area churches that unite to provide shelter, meals and compassionate assistance to homeless families. Four weeks each year, the parish transforms meeting rooms into bedrooms and provides housing for the families currently in the network.

Other outreach activities include volunteering at a soup kitchen, maintaining a food pantry and providing Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter food baskets to about 150 families referred by the Hispanic Ministry, the Native American Association and local social service groups.

St. Paul the Apostle parishioners also work to alleviate hunger and housing crises through participation in CROP Walks and Habitat for Humanity.

St. Paul the Apostle has formed a relationship with a parish in Manta, Ecuador, and through the Sister Parish program they have helped finance a soup kitchen, provide wheelchairs for four parishioners and hearing aides to a young child.

Dozens of other ministries and projects enhance an active faith life at the parish. From youth ministry to Mobile Meals for the needy, small faith communities to Respect Life ministry, the people of St. Paul the Apostle Church reach out far beyond the church walls to touch the lives of many in their community.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Understanding the Mystery of
the Mass, Part 10; Eucharist is
core of Christianity, says pope

| PAGE 7

MARCH 4, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 22

FEMINISTS AGAINST ABORTION

Abortion harms, exploits women, says speaker

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — "The Feminist Case Against Abortion" was recently presented in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Abortion is contradictory to feminism," said Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America. "The more you know about the remarkable women who set the first examples, the more you will see why you can be pro-life and pro-women."

Foster, who has served at the pro-life organization based in Washington since 1994, spoke at three locations around the diocese in February. The diocese, diocesan Catholic Campus Ministry and Belmont Abbey sponsored her visit.

"I am still asked if Feminists for Life is an oxymoron, but there's nothing more consistent than supporting women and children, rejecting violence and exploitation," she said.

Founded in 1972, Femi-

See ABORTION, page 6

The Eucharist: Leading the way



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance during a eucharistic procession with hundreds of youths as part of the diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey Feb. 27.

*Hundreds of youths
gather for pilgrimage*

JOURNEY SHOULD LEAD TO
ETERNAL LIFE, SAYS BISHOP

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — The threat of rain did little to dampen the spirits of hundreds of young pilgrims walking and praying behind the Eucharist.

Approximately 250 youths from high schools and colleges across the diocese followed Bishop Peter J. Jugis as he led the eucharistic procession around Belmont Abbey College. It was part of the diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey, themed "Come, Let Us Adore Him," Feb. 27.

"You've come here from many different parishes," said Bishop Jugis to the youths, who gathered in the Abbey Basilica before the procession. "You really get a sense of being a part of something bigger."

See PILGRIMAGE, page 6



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Verbite Father Charles Smith speaks to high school and college students during the Black History Celebration at St. Mary Church in Greensboro Feb. 26.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

Black history celebration inspires Catholic youth

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO —

Fearing society is becoming "spiritually bankrupt," one priest taught a group of young people to embrace their heritage for a better future.

Verbite Father Charles Smith was the invited speaker at St. Mary Church

in Greensboro, where young people gathered to celebrate black history and black Catholicism Feb. 26-27.

For the annual Black History Celebration, organizers decided to focus on the young people of the multi-ethnic parish — black,

See HERITAGE, page 5

GIVING THEIR HEARTS AWAY

College students spend weekend serving others

BY JENNIFER GARIFO
SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BELMONT — College students from all reaches of the diocese recently gave away their hearts.

The students gathered in Belmont for the second annual

See WEEKEND, page 8

Culture Watch

Pope's book examines
20th century; TV Easter
special focuses on church

| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives

DSA update; teaching
moments; Holy Week;
free speech in church

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Parish Profile

St. Joseph Church in
Newton: a thriving
family of faith

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

UNITED FRONT



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. and United Kingdom members of a pro-life team, which involved around 30 people from pro-life organizations in several countries, draft a press release at the United Nations in New York as U.N. members worked on a Feb. 18 declaration calling on member states to outlaw human cloning practices. The pro-life team was present to advocate against cloning.

United Nations passes declaration to ban all forms of human cloning

NEW YORK — After more than three years of deadlock, delegates to the United Nations legal committee, by a vote of 71 to 35, accepted a declaration calling on all nations to enact laws prohibiting all forms of human cloning.

The United Nations has called on member states to adopt urgent legislation outlawing all cloning practices saying "they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life."

The Feb. 18 declaration, introduced by Honduras and supported by the United States, also calls on countries to "prevent the exploitation of women." Cloning requires harvesting eggs from women.

The previous deadlock was caused by countries seeking approval for cloning research. The United Kingdom, Belgium and Singapore led the opposition against a total ban, insisting it should apply only to "reproductive cloning" that allows the cloned human to live, while permitting cloned embryos to be used for research that would kill them — the so-called "clone and kill" process also referred to as "therapeutic cloning."

At the insistence of delegates from developing countries who feared their women would be turned into "egg farms," the declaration calls on member states to introduce measures to prevent the exploitation of women. Delegates expressed concern that poor women would be targeted to extract the vast numbers of eggs that would be needed, inevitably inflicting painful, dangerous and invasive procedures on vulnerable women.

If "clone and kill" research were continued, millions of women would be needed to take high doses of fertility

drugs to produce sufficient quantities of eggs, with projections of 800,000 women likely to be affected by serious medical complications as a result.

Efforts to pass the ban at the United Nations were supported by a pro-life team involving around 30 people from an international coalition of pro-life organizations.

Dr. Martha Shuping of Winston-Salem was partially supported by the Diocese of Charlotte and St. Mark Church in Huntersville to participate in pro-life educational efforts at the United Nations. Coalition members helped educate U.N. delegations about adult stem cell research, which makes unethical treatments with embryonic stem cells unnecessary.

Coalition members believed their presence influenced the passage of the declaration. Several members were involved in contacting thousands of supporters with prayer requests when negotiations began to stall with talk of "no action."

Members credit the final result to the power of prayer, said Shuping.

In the United States, anti-cloning legislation — the Cloning Prohibition Act — was introduced in both the Senate and the House the same week. This legislation has been passed twice by the House and is supported by President Bush, but it has failed in the past to gain Senate approval.

However, there is an anti-life cloning bill being considered in the Senate and in the House. Cloning legislation is also currently under consideration in several individual states, including Missouri, Massachusetts and Arizona, which may be helped by the standard set by the United Nations.

Cardinal says feeding-tube removal could lead U.S. down wrong path

CLEARWATER, Fla. (CNS) — Facing a new court deadline of March 18 for removal of the feeding tube that keeps Terri Schindler Schiavo alive, the parents of the brain-damaged Florida woman found in the words of a Vatican cardinal new support for their fight against removal of the tube.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told Vatican Radio Feb. 24 that if Terri's husband, Michael, "is legally able to provoke the death of his wife, this would not only be tragic in itself, but it would be a serious step toward the legal approval of euthanasia in the United States given the weight which court decisions have in the formation of laws in that country."

Michael says his wife would want the feeding tube removed. Her parents say their daughter would want to live,

in part because of her Catholic beliefs.

Cardinal Martino recalled a recent message from Pope John Paul II to the Pontifical Academy for Life, in which the pope reaffirmed "that quality of life cannot be interpreted as economic efficiency, beauty or the enjoyment of physical life, but it consists in the supreme dignity of the creature made in the image and likeness of God."

Pinellas County Circuit Court Judge George W. Greer ruled Feb. 25 that Michael Schiavo could order doctors to remove the feeding tube March 18.

Terri Schiavo, 41, has been impaired for the past 15 years since she collapsed because of what doctors believe was a potassium imbalance. Her brain was deprived of oxygen for several minutes. She can breathe on her own but requires nutrition and hydration through a feeding tube.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — UNC-Asheville will host a talk on "Catholic Social Teaching" by Father David A. Boileu of Loyola University March 14 at 7:30 p.m., at UNC-A's Highsmith University Union Swannanoa Room, 1 University Heights. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call UNC-Asheville's Center for Diversity Education at (828) 232-5024.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Ministry Center will present "Dealing with the years that follow" March 16, 6:30-8 p.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. While attention is usually focused on persons who are grieving in the first year after a death occurs, the needs of grieving persons go on. Spiritual friendship, care and concern are still needed, regardless of how much time has passed since the loss. We will explore some of these feelings and ways to cope, as well as signs that may point to the need for specific grief work. The presenter will be Janice Olive of Hospice of Charlotte. For more information, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — A Polish-language Mass will be celebrated at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Palm Sunday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m. in the Daily Mass Chapel. Reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965* is being considered for Fall 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Israeli official confident about Vatican accord on legal, tax matters

ROME (CNS) — The Israeli Foreign Ministry's point man for interreligious affairs, Nimrod Barkan, said he is confident an Israeli-Vatican agreement on legal and financial matters will be sealed in the next four months.

Barkan, who met with top Vatican diplomatic officials Feb. 22 to explain Israeli stances, said there was "a breakthrough in the Israeli position" on the negotiations.

The new Cabinet of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has approved the proposals presented to the Vatican, which should clear the way for a finalization of the new treaty within "three or four months," he said.

Barkan said he was confident an agreement could be reached on the taxation of church-owned vehicles, on the percentage of income tax church-owned businesses have to pay and on a description of what types of property disputes involving the church

can be handled by a court rather than by the government.

The most difficult issue in the current negotiations, he said, has been the church's insistence that church institutions exempt from local property taxes for hundreds of years continue to be exempt.

"We have informed the Vatican that this will be resolved to their full satisfaction once the other issues have been dealt with," Barkan said, refusing to explain further.

Asked about allegations that Israeli police did not protect Melkite Catholics in the Galilean village of Maghar when they were attacked by their Druze neighbors in mid-February, Barkan said the government has launched an inquiry.

The government, he said, is committed "to making sure every human life in Israel is respected and protected."

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — A candlelight prayer vigil in observance of the scheduled execution of William Powell and in respect for the family of murder victim Mary Gladden will be held March 10. This event, which is sponsored by the *Gaston Coalition for a Moratorium Now* (GCMN), will begin at 7 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Memorial Monument, 330 N. Marietta St. GCMN's mission is to urge the N.C. General Assembly to reform the capital punishment process through educational forums and legislative advocacy. For more information, call George Burazer (704) 822-6350.

BELMONT — A *Lenten Supper-Study Series* will conclude in the Kovacic Center at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., March 9. A shared meal begins at 6 p.m., and catechesis begins at 6:45 p.m. The theme is "The Eucharist as Way of Life." Free and open to all — no fees or pre-registration necessary. Please call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will present its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat* at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. followed by coffee and light refreshments. The retreat dates are Thursdays, March 10 and 17.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 8 — 11 a.m. Presbyteral Council
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 12 — 4:30 p.m. Mass
Boy Scouts Catholic Camporee
Camp Barnhardt, Baden

March 13-14 USCCB Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry
Baltimore, Md.

March 20 — 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Charlotte

Vatican highlights pope's e-mail address for well-wishers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican Web site has highlighted Pope John Paul II's public e-mail address so that well-wishers can send him their greetings and promises of prayer.

As in the past, the Vatican's Internet office added the e-mail link to the Vatican's home page Feb. 25 without fanfare or public notice.

Pope John Paul was hospitalized Feb. 24 and underwent a tracheotomy to help him breathe. Five days later, Pope John Paul II was able to say Mass in his hospital room, meet with aides and continue initial sessions of speech therapy, the Vatican said.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who brought the pope some papers to work on, told reporters March 1 that the pontiff was "able and alert," and had spoken to him — in two languages, German and Italian.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters the same day that the pope's recovery was "completely normal" and that he had spent another peaceful night, but did not say how long the pope would remain at Rome's Gemelli hospital.

Messages may be sent to the pope by clicking on a link in English titled "Best Wishes for the Holy Father" on the Vatican's homepage: www.vatican.va.

Because of the volume of e-mail the pope receives when the address is highlighted, the Vatican usually gives it prominence on the home page only on special occasions such as Christmas or the pope's May 18 birthday.

But even when the address was not easy to find on the Web site, when the pope was hospitalized Feb. 1-10 he received between 40,000 and 50,000 e-mail messages, said Legionaries of Christ Father Fernando Vergez, an official in the Vatican's Internet office.

Father Vergez said March 1 he did not know how many e-mails the pope had received since undergoing the tracheotomy because the Internet office is "really just a transit point" for the messages, which are forwarded to the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Each message is read by an official in the secretariat. He prepares a summary of the messages and forwards the summary to the pope, along with the complete texts of a few sample messages.

Honoring an advocate



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Members of Brazil's Federation of Rural Agricultural Workers pay tribute to U.S. Sister Dorothy Stang, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, during a meeting in Brasilia Feb. 28. The 73-year-old nun, an outspoken advocate for Brazilian peasants, was shot several times in the chest and head Feb. 12.

Rome's Jewish leaders lead prayers at hospital in honor of pope

ROME (CNS) — Leaders of Rome's Jewish community went to the Gemelli Hospital Feb. 25 to offer prayers for Pope John Paul II and try to get some firsthand information about his condition.

Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, the chief rabbi of Rome, told reporters, "We prayed and recited a psalm to show our solidarity and to send our best wishes."

Rabbi Di Segni and Roberto Cohen, vice president of Rome's Jewish community, said they did not get in to see the pope, who underwent a tracheotomy late

Feb. 24 to ease a breathing problem.

Cohen said they recited Psalm 139, which professes God's intimate knowledge of and care for those who trust in him.

The Jewish community wanted to acknowledge how much Pope John Paul had contributed to improving Catholic-Jewish relations, he said, adding that the community was not afraid that difficulties would return if he were no longer pope.

"By now the centuries of darkness have passed and there is no risk of going back," Cohen said.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Volunteer honored by governor for outstanding service

CHARLOTTE — Don Saravalli, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, has been awarded the 2004 North Carolina award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Saravalli, who received a congratulatory letter and certificate from Gov. Michael Easley in November 2004, is one of more than 15,000 volunteers from North Carolina who have received this award since 1979.

In the letter, Gov. Easley said Saravalli's service "is admirable and your contributions to the state are immeasurable. Thank you for all that you do."

Saravalli's volunteer work began 12 years ago as an Emergency Financial Assistance interviewer for Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte, which provides assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis. He has been volunteering in the organization's business office for the last six years.

His primary responsibility is entering data into a computer, resulting in the generation of 300-400 rent or utility checks per day. With little exception, the 46,000 hours of volunteer service that annually benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry is provided by volunteers who work one morning a week.

"Don is a rare volunteer in that he is here five days a week for three to four hours per day," said Pete Bondi, Crisis Assistance Ministry's director of finance. "He is more like a staff member because of his many years with Crisis Assistance Ministry."

Saravalli's commitment to Crisis Assistance Ministry was exemplified by his actions during a snowstorm Feb. 26, 2004. With the beginnings of 16 inches of snow falling on the ground, only seven of the 50 staff members — and one volunteer, Saravalli — arrived for work. Saravalli was subsequently honored with the organization's first



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Saravalli, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church, is pictured with his wife, Camilla. Don recently received a 2004 North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

"Ice Age Volunteer" award.

Saravalli is also active in his parish, having served as stewardship chairman and pastoral board vice-chairman, as well as school board vice-chairman. Having worked for a candy manufacturer for 37 years, Saravalli and his wife, Camilla, will soon celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

WANT TO HELP?

Forty percent of CAM's labor comes from volunteers. For more info on volunteer opportunities, contact Melissa Raphael at (704) 371-3001, ext.151 or mraphael@crisisassistance.org.

Discussing Jesus



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin conducts "A Personal Relationship with Jesus" retreat for more than 70 Knights of Columbus and their wives in Raleigh Feb. 26. Knights and spouses are invited to attend future retreats with Bishop Curlin: May 7 at St. Mary Church in Shelby, hosted by Council 11946; and May 14 at St. Patrick Church in Fayetteville, hosted by Council 2838. Both retreats run 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with noon lunch and 2:30 p.m. Mass. For more info, call (704) 487-7697.

Diocese to hold blood drive in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a blood drive at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte April 6.

The blood drive is open to both diocesan employees and the public. All eligible donors are encouraged to attend.

To give blood, donors must be 17 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds. Blood may be donated once every eight weeks.

"Donating blood allows us to perform a life-saving community service,"

said Vanessa Garcia, human resources clerk with the diocese. "One person's donation can save up to three lives."

Some medical conditions may permanently or temporarily disqualify people from donating.

WANT TO DONATE?

The drive will be held Wednesday, April 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Donors must bring ID and complete a medical history and mini-physical. For directions or information, call (704) 370-3357.

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Black history celebration inspires Catholic youth

HERITAGE, from page 1

Hispanic, Asian and white.

The weekend celebration, titled "Moving On: Embracing the Future," consisted of workshops for high school and college students, a gospel Mass and dinner on Saturday and concluded with Mass on Sunday.

"We wanted to motivate the youths in the Catholic Church ... we have so many young people that leave the faith," said Kathy Jefferson, a parishioner who coordinated the celebration. "We try to keep them faithful to the Catholic religion and active in the church."

Many high school and college students leave out of boredom, but return to the church once they have families of their own, Jefferson said.

Migdalia Ortiz, director of faith formation for St. Mary Church, said the leaders of St. Mary Church are trying to make the Catholic faith more appealing to young people.

"Youths want to be more active in the church, but leadership is needed," Ortiz said.

One of the goals of the workshops was to draw out young leaders from youths of the parish.

About 60 youths attended the

workshops led by Father Smith, priest-in-residence at St. Rita Church in Indianapolis.

In small groups of six to eight youths and an adult moderator, the students discussed a variety of hypothetical scenarios involving issues such as the death penalty and abortion and tried to come up with solutions.

The groups found that solutions to such complicated issues were hard to come by. Most recommended forgiveness, repentance and prayers for guidance for the characters in their scenarios.

"My main task is to get young people to understand more clearly and precisely the values and doctrines of the church," Father Smith said.

Father Smith said American society is at risk of becoming "spiritually bankrupt" — people value material possessions to the point that they have lost their identity, vision and gospel heritage.

"I'm a firm believer that Catholic morality, when used by people in everyday life, will redeem (those people) and society," said Father Smith. "If we practice justice, peace, charity and morality — at work, school and home — we will have a better world."

If diverse groups can sit and dialogue as Christians, they can become a model for the world.

Pearline Thompson, a parishio-



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

"If we practice justice, peace, charity and morality — at work, school and home — we will have a better world."

ner of St. Mary Church for more than 60 years, said she wants people to realize the difficulty of "keeping the faith" among Catholics.

Many black Protestants, unlike Catholics, didn't have to fight for their right to worship, she said. "It's a treasure and we've worked hard for it."


Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



Above: Verbite Father Charles Smith advises a group of young people discussing Catholic moral issues at St. Mary Church in Greensboro Feb. 26.

Right: Father Smith discusses how society is in danger of becoming "spiritually bankrupt."

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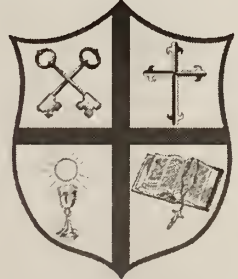
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Feminist case against abortion

ABORTION, from page 1

nists for Life is a national grassroots organization that continues the efforts of the early American feminists, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, to eliminate the causes that drive women to abortion by facilitating practical solutions.

Foster is widely recognized as an international spokesperson for pro-life feminism. Her speech, "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," was published in the anthology *Women's Rights*, which is one volume in a series of "Great Speeches in History." In her speech, Foster addresses 200 years of pro-life feminism and explains how the modern women's movement came to support abortion.

The "abortion debate is full of horror stories on both sides of the issue," she said.

"Coercive and unethical counselors lie to vulnerable women and pressure them. This has happened in some abortion clinics as well as some pregnancy care centers," said Foster. "Women have died from botched abortions, both before abortion was legalized and after, when it is supposed to be safe. Fanatics resort to violence on both extremes of the pro-choice/pro-life spectrum."

"What it does not do is help women, which was what the original feminist movement set out to do," she said.

The now-revered feminists of the 19th century were strongly opposed to abortion, said Foster, because of their beliefs in the worth of all humans. In Susan B. Anthony's newsletter, *The Revolution*, abortion was described as "child murder," "infanticide" and "feticide." Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who in 1848 organized the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y., classified abortion as a form of infanticide.

Anti-abortion laws enacted in the latter half of the 19th century were a result of advocacy efforts by feminists who worked in an uneasy alliance with the male-dominated medical profession and the mainstream media, said Foster.

The early feminists understood that, much like today, women resorted to abortion because they were abandoned or pressured by boyfriends, husbands and parents and lacked financial resources to have babies on their own, she said.

"In the 1960s, certain factions of the women's movement made a drastic about-face," said Foster.

"Ironically, the anti-abortion laws that early feminists worked so hard to enact to protect women and children were the very ones destroyed by the Roe v. Wade decision 100 years later — a decision hailed by the National Organi-

FROM THE COVER

Youths gather for spiritual pilgrimage

PILGRIMAGE, from page 1

You get a sense of how good God is and the work he's doing throughout the diocese."

A pilgrimage is more than traveling from one place to another, said the bishop.

"Rarely we would set out traveling aimlessly. We always have a goal in mind," he said.

The goal of a pilgrimage, said the bishop, is to that of a sacred place "where we want to go and spend some time with the Lord, separate from our daily lives."

"The goal of our lives, no matter how young or old we are, is that of eternal life," he said. "To get to eternal life, we go on a pilgrimage."

"During the Year of the Eucharist, we come to this sacred place — one of the first churches in what is now the Diocese of Charlotte," said Bishop Jugis, calling the basilica, which was built in the 1890s, a "testimony to the Catholics who came before us."

"This pilgrimage is a reminder of the pilgrimage that the church is on as a family of God, a pilgrimage through history to God," he said. "This is a small version of that pilgrimage."

"This is our time now. We are on our way, marching to our eternal home," said Bishop Jugis. "That is a pilgrimage that we never want to lose sight of."

The pilgrimage was one of numerous activities scheduled throughout the diocese to observe the Year of the Eucharist, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II. During the year, which runs through October 2005, a series of programs and observances is scheduled to take place, including eucharistic adoration in various parishes and the diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 23-24.

"The youth pilgrimage was a wonderful privilege to commemorate and devote ourselves more faithfully to Our Lord, who is truly present in the holy Eucharist," said

zation for Women (NOW) as the 'emancipation of women,' she said.

"The goals of the more recent NOW-led women's movement with respect to abortion would have outraged the early feminists," said Foster.

"It's important to reach them (women) now, so we can help create a world where we focus on helping women instead of eliminating people," said Foster.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Feminists for Life, visit www.feministsforlife.org.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Father Christopher Roux and youths from around the diocese kneel in the Abbey Basilica as Deacon Arthur Kingsley, permanent deacon at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, places a Eucharist in a monstrance on the altar. The eucharistic adoration was part of the diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey Feb. 27.

Right: Hundreds of youths and adults take part in the eucharistic procession.



Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden and head of the diocesan planning committee for the Year of the Eucharist.

"To gather the youth from around the diocese in the Year of the Eucharist, to adore our Lord in the sacrament, is a tremendous opportunity for grace," said Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry. "Hopefully, this experience will lead to greater appreciation of the sacrifice of the Mass, which is Christ's greatest gift to us."

The youth pilgrimage also included remarks by Abbot Placid Solari, abbot of Belmont Abbey; Benediction; and an informal bring-your-own supper.

WANT MORE INFO?

More information about the diocesan Eucharistic Congress Sept. 23-24 is available on the Internet at www.goeucharist.com.

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Structure of the Liturgy of the Word

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 10

We know that the Mass teaches us how to pray. According to the structure of the Mass, prayer has the following form: humility and repentance, praise and adoration, and petition and intercession. These aspects of prayer particularly involve our words; that is, we speak to God.

But perhaps more important than our words, our need to address our Heavenly Father, is his desire to speak to us, to reveal his will, his divine plan, indeed himself. And so both in prayer and in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, which is the highest form of prayer, we must listen to the voice of the Lord. We are seated to listen attentively to the voice of the Good Shepherd who leads us to eternal life; we must be receptive to Our Lord, who is called "Rabbi," the great teacher, who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," for he is the Word of the eternal Father.

Several weeks ago, we discussed the Mass as a sacred ritual, whose parts and prayers are selected, inspired and faithfully handed down through the centuries. In other words, the selected readings at the Mass are part of this divine plan of revelation, so that through the seasons of the church year, the mysteries of Christ's birth, life, teaching and miracles, and finally his passion, death and resurrection are unfolded each year. From week to week, the life of our Lord is unfolded, revealed again and again, so that we can penetrate these mysteries and receive the fruits and graces of these mysteries.

Since these readings are pre-selected and handed down to us, they are not subject to the whim of the celebrant. The readings maintain the universal character of the church — it does not matter which Catholic church you attend — the country, language, local customs, etc. — the same readings are provided everywhere in the world. The celebrant does not have the authority or the freedom to select his favorite readings or discard his least favorite. The Catholic faithful have the privilege and right to hear the voice of God speak to us in every reading.

And so, the church offers us a three-year cycle of readings for Sunday Masses and a two-year cycle for weekday Masses. As you attend Mass each week, almost the entire canon of sacred Scripture, almost the whole of the Bible, is proclaimed every three years. And if you attend Mass every day, you will hear almost the entire canon of sacred

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



Scripture every two years.

The Sunday readings follow a very simple three-year cycle: year A concentrates on the Gospel of St. Matthew, year B focuses on the Gospel of St. Mark and year C on the Gospel of St. Luke. These three Gospels are very similar in structure and content and are known as the Synoptic Gospels. Since the Gospel of St. John contains material that is not found in these three Gospels, St. John's Gospel is proclaimed at specific times of the year and at specific feasts, such as Christmas and Easter.

On Sundays and Solemnities, three readings are provided. The first reading comes from the Old Testament and is selected to show the Old Testament foundation for the Gospel. The Old Testament foreshadows the New Testament. The New Testament completes the Old Testament.

In the words of Archbishop Fulton Sheen: "The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed; the New is in the Old contained, the Old is in the New explained."

And so on Sunday, the first reading establishes a hope that is fulfilled in the Gospel.

The first reading and the Gospel go together. The Responsorial Psalm is a response to the message of the Old Testament reading. One psalm is selected out of the 150 psalms of the Old Testament. The second reading comes from one of the New Testament Epistles, or letters, of one of the Apostles.

Throughout the year, we hear the inspired accounts of St. Paul, St. Peter, St. James or a few others. These second readings often do not follow the pattern established by the first reading and the Gospel, but they offer specific instruction on living the Christian life.

Next week we will take an even closer look of the Liturgy of the Word.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Pope says Eucharist lies at core of Christian community

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Eucharist lies at the core of the Christian community and its mission, Pope John Paul II said at the end of a week of spiritual exercises held in the Vatican.

In a written message addressed to Italian Bishop Renato Corti of Novara, the preacher who led the Lenten retreat, the pope thanked the prelate for underlining the need to keep the Eucharist at the center of daily life.

"At the heart of the church, we have gathered around the mystery of the altar" in which lies "the pulsating heart of the communion and mission of the entire Christian people," said the pope's written message released Feb. 19 by the Vatican.

The annual Lenten retreat was attended by members of the Roman Curia, but sources said Pope John Paul did not participate this year; instead he followed the Feb. 13-19 proceedings via a video link from his apartment. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, substituted for the pope at the Feb. 19 closing Mass.

Mass participants prayed that the pope remain a "vibrant image of the goodness and mercy of the heavenly Father" and asked that "he be loved and listened to by all with brotherly affection."

Bishop Corti dedicated his weeklong series of meditations on the theme, "The Church at the Service of the New and

Eternal Covenant," with special attention paid to the role of the Eucharist during this Year of the Eucharist.

Bishop Corti said that Jesus, during the Last Supper, gave the faithful a new commandment, "Love each other as I have loved you."

"In this simple verse from the Gospel, we find a synthesis of every law and all the prophets," he said in comments to Vatican Radio.

"All Christians should have at heart" Christ's commandment of love, giving the church a "brotherly face," said Bishop Corti.

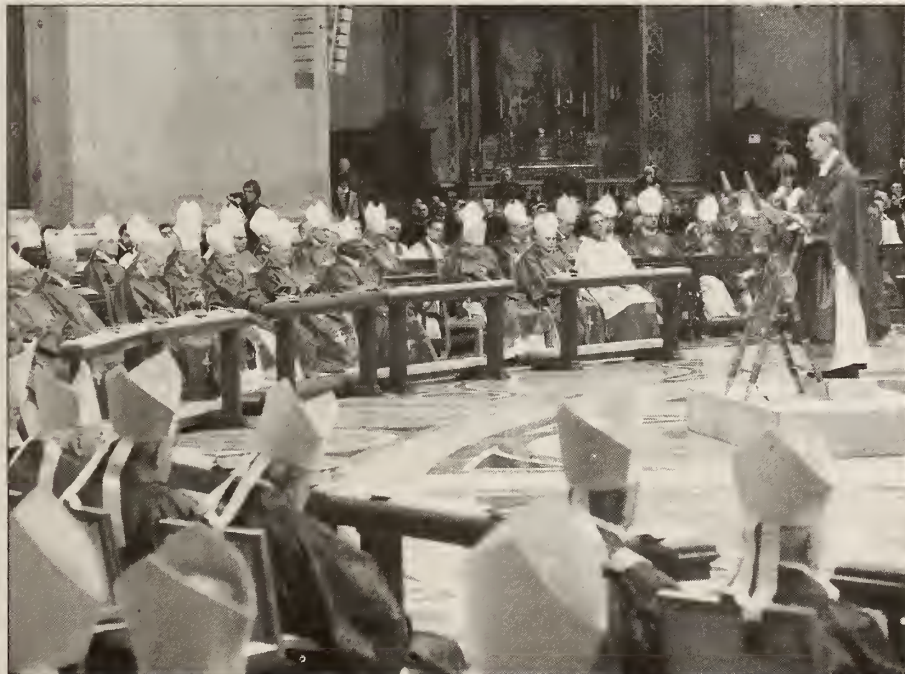
"If one wants to pay witness to communion, one must learn to see in the other not just what he has gotten wrong, but also that which is good (in him) and to learn to have esteem for him," he said.

In another of his retreat reflections, the Italian preacher said that Christians must ask themselves how they can help "build a world that has signs of hope."

"Today hope is very difficult, and many people say they do not have it," he said.

The church needs to be the first place where hope resides, he said.

Those who believe in Christ, the hope for all mankind, must put themselves at the service of hope by being at the service of people "who suffer, who are alone, so that they can have reasons to be consoled, encouraged and overcome difficulties," said the bishop.



CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Italian Bishop Renato Corti of Novara addresses cardinals gathered Feb. 19 in St. Peter's Basilica during the conclusion of the Vatican's annual Lenten retreat. The pope followed the Feb. 13-19 retreat via a video link to his apartment.

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—Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte



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YOUTH IN ACTION



COURTESY PHOTO BY JENNIFER GARIFO

Youths from around the diocese help sort clothes at Crisis Assistance Ministries in Charlotte as part of the "Give Your Heart Away" service weekend Feb. 11-13.

Students serve others

WEEKEND, from page 1

"Give Your Heart Away" community service weekend Feb. 11-13. The retreat was sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Campus Ministry Office, which runs Catholic campus ministry at colleges and universities throughout western North Carolina.

Approximately 60 students from nine colleges participated in the retreat, held at the McCarthy Spirituality Center on the Sisters of Mercy campus.

"This is the second time I've been on this retreat, and it is a really awesome experience," said Sid Mursten, a student at Appalachian State University.

The students spent the retreat working in groups at several area organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Urban Ministries, House of Mercy, Crisis Assistance Ministries, Catherine's House, Holy Angels and Shining Hope Farms.

"The retreat was a great reminder of what Lent and life are about — loving others, helping those in need and working for God," said Caroline Bond, a student at Appalachian State.

At Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit Christian housing organization, the students helped shingle a roof on one house and painted rooms in another.

"While we weren't able to meet the owner of the house, all of us understood that our work would be appreciated," said Nick Dellaripa, a student at Wake Forest. "The best part was the bonding

that went on in the group."

At Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte, an interfaith organization that assists the poor and homeless, students ate lunch with and baked cookies for homeless people. The experience offered the students new perspectives on life.

Students also spent the day sorting clothes at Crisis Assistance Ministries in Charlotte, painting rooms at Catherine's House and working with residents and Holy Angels and House of Mercy in Belmont.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass for the students and joined them for dinner at the McCarthy Center.

"There are a lot of exciting programs taking place on campuses through Catholic Campus Ministry," said Bishop Jugis. "The students are filled with faith and love for Christ."

"I am impressed also that people are willing to take their time off away from studies," said Bishop Jugis. "It is a powerful expression of faith."

Jennifer Garifo is public relations chair for Appalachian State University's Catholic Campus Ministry.



Catholic Campus Ministry is one of the 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Special Olympian receives special sendoff

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — It was far from any ordinary pep rally at St. Pius X School in Greensboro.

The school gave Anne Kessler, a Special Olympian with multiple sclerosis, a special sendoff Feb. 18. She was selected as one of two athletes from North Carolina to represent Special Olympics Team USA in Alpine skiing at the 2005 World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan Feb. 26-March 5.

A member of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, Anne's mother, Carmel, is a teacher at St. Pius X School.

"This is how the student body and the teachers got to know Anne," said Principal Mark Ackerman.

"We have all been excited since the beginning of the year when we first heard about Anne's selection for the World Special Olympics," said Vice Principal Anne Knapke.

"Anne has been a wonderful presence at our school. Everyone here knows her," said Knapke. "Anne proudly brings in the ribbons and medals she has won at the local, state and national events."

During the rally, Anne's father, David, spoke proudly of how Anne participated in the Special Olympics for the last 18 years.

During that time, Anne has competed in Alpine skiing, ice skating, aquatics, golf, soccer, softball, basketball, athletics, bowling and cycling. In 1995, she was selected to represent the Kentucky delegation of Special Olympics Team USA in aquatics at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Connecticut, where she was awarded three gold medals.

"This year, Anne won a gold medal in downhill skiing in Boone during the North Carolina state winter games," said David Kessler.

Anne also attended a training camp for Special Olympics Team USA in Colorado in December. In addition to her training, Kessler has been learning about Japanese culture and is excited to experience it firsthand.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Anne Kessler receives a blessing from Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio during a pep rally held at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Feb. 18. Watching are father David, sister Carolyn and mother Carmel Kessler.

Anne, who works at a local supermarket, is a member of the ARC of Greensboro and both the Guilford-Greensboro Athlete Council and steering committee. She has served as a Global Messenger since 2002 and on the SONC Board of Directors since 2004.

She said Special Olympics have given her a chance to travel and compete in all kinds of sports.

"I've met a lot of friends in Special Olympics," she said. "It's a wonderful dream come true to compete with other athletes across the world."

During the pep rally, Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, blessed Anne for her successful and safe journey to the games.

"I love this," said Anne. "It's going to be really cool to see Japan."

"It was amazing that Anne got that opportunity to go to the World Olympics," said fourth-grader Claire Hudak. "We all wish her all of our prayers and the good luck (she needs)."

After the pep rally, Anne and her parents left for a banquet in Raleigh before heading to Los Angeles. On Feb. 20, the U.S. competitors and coaches boarded a plane provided by the U.S. State Department en route to Japan.



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YOUTH IN ACTION

Service and sacrifice Teen-agers participate in 30-Hour Famine

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — Can hunger serve a higher purpose? When teen-agers voluntarily go without food for 30 hours, the answer seems to be an unequivocal "yes."

More than 200 sixth- through 12th-graders from six High Point- and Greensboro-area churches participated in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine at Christ United Methodist Church Feb. 26-27.

Youths from Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church have participated in the famine for the past nine years. Three years ago, Christ United Methodist Church and Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church joined the already successful project.

For the 2005 famine, three more

churches decided to participate — St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Greensboro and First Methodist Church and Covenant United Methodist Church in High Point.

"The kids (who participated in past years) look forward to the fellowship and the community service," said Terry Aiken, director of youth ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

According to World Vision's Web site, groups raise money through donors and sponsors to help millions of starving and hurting children in some of the world's poorest countries.

During the famine, participants went 30 hours without food so they could have a real taste of what hunger is like, and took part in community service projects in addition to raising money.

Money was collected through sponsorships and collections following three church services the students attended. The money raised will be sent to World Vision and put to work in areas like Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the United States.

In 2003, World Vision raised \$7.7 million through the 30-Hour Famine program. In 2004, that amount nearly doubled to \$11.4 million.

Last year, High Point's 30-Hour Famine raised more than \$13,000, making it the top North Carolina fundraising group.

The various service projects included visiting the residents of Maryfield retirement community, yard work and trash pick-up at non-profit agencies and purchasing non-perishable food for the local homeless shelter.

Participants were also visited by a homeless family and learned firsthand the causes and effects of homelessness.

Aiken and Brian Cornell, minister to



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Students make their mark during the 30-Hour Famine held in High Point Feb. 26-27. During the famine, students performed community service projects and collected donations to benefit World Vision.

youth and young adults at Christ United Methodist Church, coordinated the weekend's activities.

"This is one weekend that young people are actively participating in community activities," Cornell said.

Going hungry for a good cause and serving their community had an unexpected by-product: new friendships.

In addition to their exposure to the needy in their own community and throughout the world, the teen-agers gained insight into other Christian religions. The entire group attended Saturday Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary and services at Christ United Methodist and Wesley Memorial United Methodist churches on Sunday.

Aiken and Cornell hope to get more churches and the local synagogue in-

involved in the famine next year.

Conventional wisdom would suggest that once teen-agers had fasted for 30 straight hours, they would never want to do it again. Not so, said Betty Galgoc, an adult catechist at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"It's contagious," she said. "The kids couldn't wait to do it again, and they brought other kids with them."

Matt Hairgrove, a sophomore from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, said the famine is "a way to connect with the community and help those who are less fortunate."

Cornell summed up the famine's service, sacrifice and camaraderie in just 10 words.

"God's kingdom is a lot bigger than our little playground," he said.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

In new book, pope says society did not learn from 20th century

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a new book, Pope John Paul II warns that despite the failed ideologies and tragic lessons of the 20th century, modern society still acts as if it can determine good and evil without reference to God.

That represents a threat to entire groups of people, including the unborn, the pope says in the book, "Memory and Identity: Conversations Between Millenniums."

"If man can decide alone, without God, what is good and what is evil, then he can also decide to exterminate a category of human beings," the pope wrote.

The 228-page book was unveiled at a Feb. 22 press conference in Rome. It is due out in English later this year.

Based on conversations between the pope and several Polish academics, the book is essentially a papal reflection on the ideological struggles that played out in Europe over the last 100 years and their significance for the 21st century.

With the advance of the communist revolution, the rise of Nazism, the outbreak of World War II and the installation of the Soviet regime, the pope views the 20th century as a stage upon which the forces of good and evil engaged in sharp combat.

He is convinced that good has triumphed, but worries that not all the lessons have been learned.

For example, the pope noted that Hitler used legal means to open the way to aggression against other European countries, the passage of racial laws, the creation of concentration camps and the introduction of the so-called "final solution" to eradicate the Jewish race.

The pope then connected those historical developments with worrisome signs in modern Europe and elsewhere, and he warned of a dangerous detachment from traditional moral and religious values.

"The most immediate association of ideas that comes to mind are the laws on abortion," he said.

"The parliaments that create and promulgate such laws should be aware that they are abusing their powers and remain in open conflict with the law of God and the law of nature," he said.

If in the past it was nationalist regimes that advanced totalitarian agendas, today the threat is often represented by powerful economic forces that try to impose their ideas around the world, especially in poorer countries, he said.

Under "democratic" forms, this new type of totalitarianism has taken aim at basic human values by promoting moral permissiveness, abortion, euthanasia, genetic manipulation, contraception and divorce, he said.

The pope said one egregious example was the recent legislative push to have homosexual unions recognized as an "alternative form of family."

At the book presentation, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, said the pope was not putting the Holocaust and abortion on the same historical level, but was noting that modern democracies are not immune to evil, including the destruction of human life, which in some forms can even be supported by the majority.

The book is autobiographical in the sense that as a young man the pope lived in a country that found itself in the midst of Europe's ideological struggles. He writes movingly of what people knew and did not know after the Nazi invasion of Poland, saying the true extent of Nazi evil was evident only after the war.

The book has the tone and freshness of a dialogue, but the substance is meaty. It ranges over such topics as the Christian roots of Europe, the relationship between the faith and the Enlightenment in 18th-century Europe, the Industrial Revolution and the emergence of the ideals of freedom and equality in democratic states.

Key to the pope's vision is the belief that the memory of one's own history and culture in large part forms human identity, at the personal and collective levels.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 13, 2005

March 13, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130:1-8
- 2) Romans 8:8-11
- 3) Gospel: John 11:1-45

Christ's love is liberating

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My old friend was clearly in trouble. He was dizzy, unable to stand without help. His breathing was shallow and labored. His fingers and lips were beginning to take on the bluish tinge that warned of oxygen deprivation.

Fearing for his life, his children rushed him to the hospital. It was a relief to all his anxious family and friends when, many hours later, the doctors reported that the emergency surgery had succeeded.

However, he would need lots of help, the family was told. He would be weak for a long time, and his recovery would be slow. Having rejoiced when the crisis was averted, his family now

hunkered down for the long, often taxing work of assisting him in the completion of his return to health.

One of the striking elements of the Lazarus story, which the church proclaims each year as candidates for Easter baptism prepare for their Christian initiation, is the final directive Jesus gives to those at the cemetery. After raising Lazarus from the dead and calling him forth from the tomb, Jesus engages the community in his transformative work.

"Untie him," he tells the friends and family and onlookers, "and let him go."

The heavy lifting of conversion, both in its initial stages and in the ongoing life's work of it, is done by Christ. It is he who, in the secret chambers of our hearts and the external circumstances of our lives, draws us to himself in the church.

It is up to the church then, to all of us who comprise the family of faith, to cooperate in his work by untying one another. We must undo the bonds that impede our freedom — injustice, envy, selfishness, complacency, coldness of heart.

In these last weeks of Lent, may Christ make of us liberators.

Questions:

How can I assist someone preparing for Easter baptism to feel more welcome in the church? To whom might I turn for help in "untying" bonds that are keeping me from fully living my faith?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 6-12

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; **Monday (Sts. Perpetua and Felicity),** Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (St. John of God),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday (St. Frances of Rome),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 13-19

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (St. Patrick),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (St. Cyril of Jerusalem),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24.

Classifieds

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ORGANIST/PIANIST: The Sisters of Mercy have an opening for a part-time organist/pianist. Salary will be based on degree and experience. Must be available for Sunday, Holy Days, funerals, and other major celebrations. Send resume to: Sister Mary Angela Perez, Sisters of Mercy, 101 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012.

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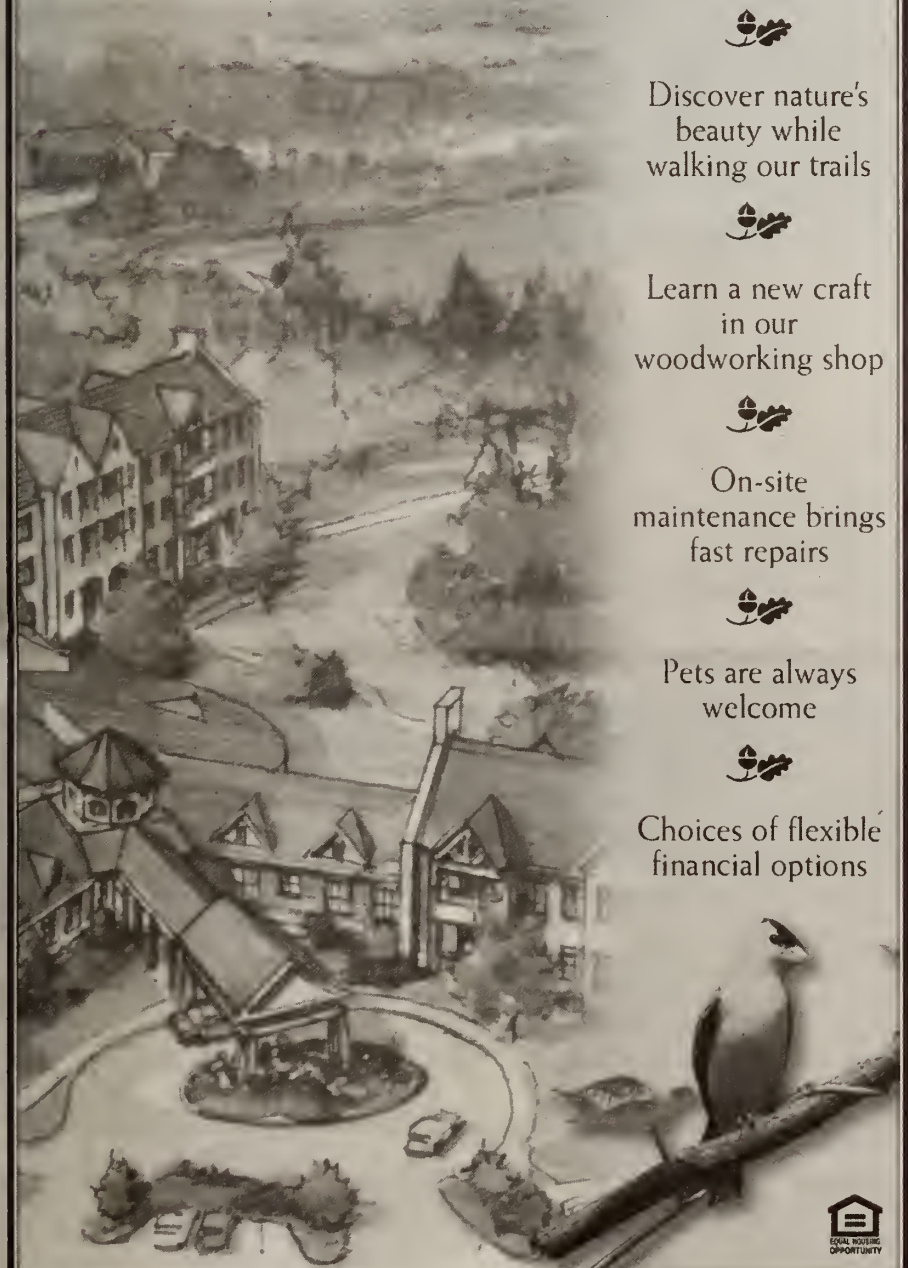
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'Cool' is rather lukewarm



CNS PHOTO FROM MGM

John Travolta, Uma Thurman and Cedric the Entertainer star in "Be Cool," a flat follow-up to the 1994 comedy "Get Shorty" in which a mobster-turned-movie producer sets his sights on the music business. The stale sequel lacks the sharpness and satirical edge of "Shorty." The movie contains recurring violence, an implied sexual encounter, images of smoking, drug content, some vulgar gestures, and much rough and crude language and humor. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

ABC-TV Easter special focuses on new members of Catholic Church

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An estimated 150,000 Americans joined the Catholic Church last Easter, according to figures compiled by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization.

The stories of a few of those 150,000 will be told in an ABC-TV special slated to air on Easter, March 27.

"Come to the Water: The Adult Journey to Baptism" takes a look at people in the Archdiocese of Seattle who joined the church at last year's Easter Vigil — including those with Protestant, Jewish, Buddhist and atheist backgrounds.

The hourlong special is broadcast at the discretion of ABC affiliates, so interested viewers should check local listings or call their ABC affiliate about its plans to air the program. The U.S. bishops' Web site, www.usccb.org, will have posted in mid-March a list of ABC stations committed to airing the show.

The program will show parts of the

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ceremony at St. James Cathedral in Seattle. Those who are not yet baptized are called catechumens, while those who are already baptized in another Christian faith are called candidates. Candidates receive the other two sacraments of Christian initiation — confirmation and Eucharist — while catechumens receive the sacrament of baptism as well.

As catechumens are led to the cathedral's baptismal font for baptism by immersion, "I take each of them by the hand and you can feel the different reaction," said Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of Seattle. "You can feel people who are actually shaking, you know, and so excited, and some of them so tense because this has got to be a very big moment; they've really worked toward this moment."

"Come to the Water" was produced by New Group Media of South Bend, Ind., for the Catholic Communication Campaign.

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DIRECTOR OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

The Archdiocese of Atlanta is seeking a Director for the Office of Child and Youth Protection. The responsibilities of this position include providing education, resources and support on child abuse and its prevention throughout the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The qualified candidate will hold a Master's degree or equivalent in counseling or social work. Experience working with victims and survivors of abuse is needed. Knowledge of the Catholic teachings and of community resources and referrals for child abuse required. Please submit resume to:

Cathy Hood, Secretary for Human Resources
Archdiocese of Atlanta
680 W. Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

Fax # (404) 885-7497 or e-mail: catholicjobs@archatl.com

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

How are you living your faith beyond attending Mass, receiving the sacraments and other church activities? Do you have a unique way of sharing your Catholic faith with others? Are you willing to share your story with The Catholic News & Herald to help others? If so, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Director of Faith Formation

A parish steeped in the spirit of Vatican II is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The parish is moving toward family-based catechesis, e.g. Generations of Faith. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in religious education and a proven interest in family-based catechesis. Send resume as well as references to:

Susie Barnes
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27410

fax (336) 294-6149 or e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

COORDINATOR OF ADULT FORMATION

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Coordinator of Adult Formation. Qualified candidates should have a college degree in the area of religious education or related work experience. This is a part-time position with its primary focus on the coordination of our Whole Community Catechesis Program and the RCIA Process. Qualified candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a firm commitment to the Church and its teachings. He or she will be expected to participate regularly in the community and sacramental life of the parish. Position is open immediately. Please submit resume to:

Fr. John Pagel
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
919 Haywood Road
Asheville, NC 28806

Elementary School Principal Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School Charlotte, North Carolina

Applications are being accepted for the position of Principal at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School in Charlotte, NC for the 2005-2006 school year. This school has a multi-cultural focus serving grades PK-5th and is part of the Diocese of Charlotte - Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

Qualified candidates must be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's Degree in Educational Administration or a Master's Degree in Education with a focus on Curriculum plus 18 hours of Administrative coursework. The individual must be eligible for NC principal's certification. Candidates must possess excellent communications skills and have proven administrative successes. Experience in a Catholic school is desirable, preferably in a leadership position.

Applications can be secured at: www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools
Please submit a completed application and a copy of your resume to:

Mrs. Linda L. Cherry, Superintendent
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Catholic Early Childhood Center - Director 2-year-old through 5-year-old Pre Kindergarten

St. Michael's Catholic Early Childhood Center (ECC) in Cary, NC is seeking an energetic Director to lead our two, three, four and five-year-old Pre Kindergarten ECC. The beloved founding Director is retiring after 21 years of serving the St Michael's ECC. Cary, North Carolina is in the heart of the sun belt and has been named by Money Magazine as "...the hottest town in the eastern U.S." and one of the safest and most desirable places to live in America. Cary is located near the renowned Research Triangle Park and the major university cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic and currently a Director or Administrator of a Pre-School with at least three years experience. Candidates that have been preparing for, and desire administrative responsibilities are also welcome to apply. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and be eligible for a North Carolina license in Early Childhood Education. Compensation will include a salary commensurate with experience and an excellent benefits package.

So if you like living under blue skies nearly year round, are seeking a Catholic parish and an environment where you can nurture and challenge, and would relish the opportunity to lead a pre-school with waiting lists for most classes then please submit your credentials to:

ECC Director Search Committee
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
Cary, NC 27513
Or by email to: eccsearch@stmichaelcary.org

THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIVING RESUMES IS APRIL 1, 2005.

Diocesan Director of Development for Catholic Schools

The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Must have two to three years of experience in fund raising and marketing. Must have experience with computer related programs. Responsibilities include managing two regional annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to regional schools foundation boards. Please submit resume by March 15, 2005 to:

Jim Kelley, Office of Development
Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

or email: jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

Brave Bear returns home to Immaculata School

HENDERSONVILLE — Half-way through Catholic Schools Week earlier this year, students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville welcomed home an old friend.

Brave Bear, a tall ceramic bear in Native American dress, made his unexpected return to the school Feb. 2.

The journey of Brave Bear began last year, when the students were studying Native Americans. As the students covered the gym walls with posters about Indian tribes, one parent and artist, Rhoda Shipman, was inspired to paint the bear she dubbed "Brave Bear."

But Brave Bear moved away before he met the students.

For months, he stood on a downtown sidewalk as part of a public art display. The bears were later auctioned off to a local antiques store, and most of the proceeds went to charity.

But for Catholic Schools Week



COURTESY PHOTO GINGER QUARLES

Kindergarten students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville stand with Rhonda Shipman, the artist who crafted Brave Bear.

Jan. 31-Feb. 4, Jane Asher, the shop owner, brought Brave Bear back to the school.

As the students gathered in the gym, Brave Bear stood on stage with a sheet covering his head.

"How many of you remember Brave Bear?" asked parent Ansley Leitner.

Hands shot up. When the sheet was removed, the students cheered, much to Asher's delight.

"They really wanted him, and I'm really happy he's got a good home," said Asher.

Scott Parrott of the Hendersonville Times-News contributed to this story.

Lent project encourages reading, helps feed poor

HIGH POINT — For the second year, the Lenten project at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point encourages reading and helps reduce the problem of hunger and poverty.

Students in all eight grades are involved in Heifer International's Read to Feed reading incentive program, in which the students each set reading goals, log their progress and get sponsors to pledge money per the number of hours or books read. At the end of the program, students collect donations and turn them in to their teachers.

Teachers and students then use a special catalog to "purchase" livestock for struggling families in the United States and other countries who have limited resources and are in need of ongoing sources of income. Each "purchase" is symbolic and represents a contribution to the entire program. The animals help families move away from poverty and toward self-reliance.

In return, the families are required to pass on the good deed by giving one of their animal's offspring to another family living in poverty, thus setting off a chain reaction of positive, lasting change.

Last year the school raised more than \$5,000 for the project.

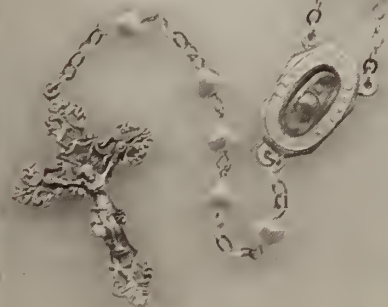
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We will remember your special intentions in two Novenas of Masses for Health and Healing—from March 29-April 6 and from April 15-23—and a special Mass for Healing on April 24 at the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians.

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DC160CNH-05

Students working to save manatees

HIGH POINT — Fifth-graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point have a chance to be parents to Florida manatees.

Through the Save the Manatee Club, students can donate money to adopt manatees and learn more about the importance of saving endangered species.

Last year's fifth-graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School adopted 12 manatees; this year's goal is to top that amount. Donations will be pooled to adopt as many of these creatures as possible; \$20 gets a student his or her own manatee.

Adoption lasts for one year and students will "check in" on their manatees several times via a Web site, www.savethemanatee.org.

Manatees are large aquatic mammals whose closest land relatives are the elephant and the hyrax, a small, gopher-sized mammal. The average adult manatee is almost 10 feet long and weighs between 800 and 1,200 pounds.

Because manatees are often found in shallow, slow-moving rivers, saltwater bays, canals and coastal areas, many manatee mortalities are human-related and occur from collisions with watercraft.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact fifth-grade teacher Meredith Chandler at the school at (336) 887-2613.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The teaching moment

Catholics have opportunity to enlighten the world

My telephone rang at 6:40 in the morning recently. Taking calls at odd hours is part of my job. Lately I've been getting a lot of them.

Was this the call I've been dreading? The one where a reporter gives me some bad news about the pope?

The caller was a reporter — the pope was back in the hospital. Can I give a short interview about what it all means to the Catholics of the Diocese of Charlotte? A few minutes later another reporter calls, and then another.

Thanks to the Internet, bad news encircles the globe in an instant. Often it can be summarized in a single word — "illness," "tsunami," "earthquake." Then the news media begins its repetition of the facts that are combined with analysis, comment and background information. The calls from reporters are invariably cordial and they represent a great opportunity to step up to the megaphone that is the media and talk about the Catholic Church.

The same people who were calling a year ago to talk about the sex scandal are calling again. This time it is about the condition of the Holy Father. Oddly, as news stories go, the health of the Holy Father and the sex scandals have a few things in common. Both stories commanded a great deal of attention and both present us with what I like to call a "teaching moment" — an opportunity to enlighten a friend, a co-worker or anyone who asks you a question with an answer that is faith based.

In the sex scandal, we learned that an institution as mighty as the Catholic Church can falter, just as we humans do, and when it does it must seek forgiveness. The papal health crisis teaches us that we have a pope who demonstrates the triumph of the spirit over the weakening flesh of advancing age, and there are a great many non-Catholics who love and respect John Paul II.

The media is officially neutral on the value of any story. It may seem like news organizations and individual reporters were out to get the church when all of the reporting was

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



focused on the sin and crime of sex abuse. But the ongoing coverage of the pope's health has been far more positive.

This is not to say that the faltering health of the Holy Father is good news. But it is a good thing when we read and hear stories of people in prayer and the amazing resiliency of the Holy Father. These stories reinforce the faithful and perhaps introduce the church to many who are seeking faith. Both stories also show that when the church faces a crisis, it turns first to prayer.

As the events unfold in Rome, all of us are going to be in a spotlight. This is still a mission diocese; there are a lot of people who have legitimate questions about our church. When asked, we should use the questions as an opportunity to teach, to talk about our faith or the power of prayer, or even the connection between the Holy Father and Jesus Christ through the appointment of St. Peter. The list could go on.

A television reporter, a non-Catholic, who was earnestly trying to understand how Catholics feel about the Holy Father's declining health, recently interviewed me. She asked me, "Are Catholics praying for the pope?"

"Of course," I answered. "In addition to private prayers, we pray for the Holy Father twice during every Mass, once during the Intercessions and later in the Eucharistic prayer." "What does prayer do?" she asked.

It is a brief question that begs for a long answer. But from experience I know that television reporters don't have time for an answer longer than about eight seconds. I paused and prayed for a worthwhile response.

"Prayer makes the world a better place," I said.

The reporter smiled; the sure sign of a teaching moment.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwains@charlottediocese.org.

Pope says Africans must work together to build continent's future

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: Due to the pope's hospitalization, there is no coverage this week of his weekly audience.

VATICAN CITY — In a message signed before he went into the hospital, Pope John Paul II said the future peace, stability and development of Africa depend on the ability of Africans to work together.

The pope said that in calling for a new Synod of Bishops for Africa he hoped to "deepen and prolong" the energy and commitment African Catholics brought to the church and society following the first African synod, which was held in 1994.

Pope John Paul announced in November that he was convoking a new synod, although he did not announce a date for the gathering. Generally synods take several years to prepare.

The pope's letter to the synod planning committee was dated Feb. 23, the day before he was taken to Rome's Gemelli hospital, where he underwent a tracheotomy to relieve breathing difficulties.

The text of the pope's message was released Feb. 25 by the Vatican.

The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II



"I rejoice at the commitment of numerous faithful in the urgent work of evangelization and to social development in the continent's countries," the pope said.

But more needs to be done to face the "terrible scourges" of "armed conflict, persistent poverty, diseases and their devastating consequences — beginning with the social drama of AIDS — widespread insecurity and corruption," the pope said.

"To build a prosperous and stable society, Africa needs all its children and their joint efforts," he said.

The pope prayed that African Catholics would become clear witnesses for their neighbors of how much can be accomplished with commitment, generosity and sacrifice.

'Hands of Christ' working in many ways

Reaching DSA goal will benefit parishes, people

St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out unto the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people."

These words of St. Teresa of Avila are just as true today as they were in her day, as we bring to a close this initial phase of the 2005 Diocesan Support Appeal, themed "We are the hands of Christ." The ministries funded through DSA contributions are the outreach ministries that touch the lives of thousands of people here in our diocese. They are ways of reaching out to our brothers and sisters in faith with compassion, good works and blessings.

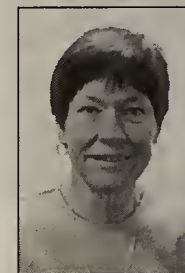
As we approach Appeal Sunday, March 13, the DSA is almost halfway to the goal of \$3,950,000. A total of \$1,929,086 has been received in pledges from 8,088 donors during the month of February. Thirty-two parishes have pledges exceeding 50 percent of their target amount.

The in-pew effort on Appeal Sunday often results in more than half of our parishes reaching their assessed goal. Any money received over the parish goal is returned to the parish for its own use.

Each year, during the DSA, I hear of many ways the appeal has touched people's lives. The catechumens and candidates in my own parish felt a great sense of belonging to the universal Catholic Church when they attended the rite of election, under the direction of the

Guest Column

BARBARA
GADDY
GUEST COLUMNIST



RCIA Commission of Office of Faith Formation.

Parishioners at St. Joseph Church in Asheboro benefited from the Lenten reflections and evening of prayer led by Frank Villarronga, director of evangelization in the diocese. The seniors of the diocese are already looking forward to the "Spring Fling," under the direction of Sandra Breakfield, director of diocesan Elder Ministry. A young engaged couple spoke of the many ways their marriage will be enhanced thanks to their participation in Catholic Social Services Marriage Preparation.

These are just a few of the ways a DSA-funded ministry has made a difference in the lives of our parishioners.

By the time the DSA comes to a close at the end of 2005, nearly 20,000 parishioners will know what it means to be the hands of Christ through a gift to the appeal. More importantly, over 100,000 people will know what it means to receive help from someone who serves as the hands of Christ.

Barbara Gaddy is associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Holy Week is about 'unclogging the arteries'

It seems to me that "repentance" has been the key word for the whole season of Lent, and it reaches its apex during the Holy Week, which is by all standards the most important week of the year.

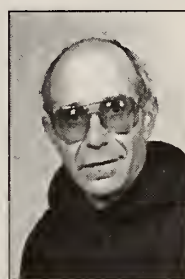
We have heard many times during our liturgical prayers, "If you hear the voice of the Lord, harden not your hearts." The voice of the Lord calling to repentance, therefore, must have an answer by unclogging the arteries rather than going on with the hardness of heart. Sometimes, we are unaware of our stony hearts by being agnostics or non-authentic, by being Mr. or Mrs. Perfect, by being mercenaries rather than volunteers.

The word "agnostic" means somebody who does not know or somebody who claims he or she does not know. The early church suffered a great deal about this illness that plagued society for many centuries and there is still some "left-over" today. One of the claims of the agnostic people was that Jesus was not real and once they acquired that knowledge, they could live as they pleased and do anything they cared to do. The result of this mess was a very low standard of morality and values.

We know by experience that "if anything goes, nothing comes." Then authenticity comes into play. If we

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN
AURILIA,
OFM Cap.



claim to be Jesus' followers walking in the light of love, but our lifestyle does not really reflect this, we are liars, as the Apostle John bluntly wrote.

We cannot ignore our brothers and sisters, whom we see, and pretend to love God, whom we don't see. The cost of discipleship is not free nor is the gift of God. It does not mean that we buy the gift or we bribe God for it. It simply means we must meet certain requirements to receive his free gift.

The other John (the Baptist) tells us that repentance is a change of heart; in modern understanding, we talk about heart-transplant or bypass surgery. The problem with some of us is that we never can get the business of repentance started because we may see ourselves as Mr. or Mrs. Perfect.

Not by accident, Jesus uttered the harshest words to the so-called "reli-

gious people." And yet he has the good news for the same people: I have come to lift the heavy burden you are carrying into your worship experience. I have come to lift the heavy burden you are carrying into your relationship with God and one another.

Not the external letter of the law, but the spirit "within" should be the basis of our approach to God and others. Therefore, change, turn, unclog your arteries and open the flow of love and grace. It's OK to change the status quo into the status fidei.

The New Testament, speaking of the "hardness of heart," refers to the Greek mentality, which believed that the heart was the center of our being, not the brain. The truth is that we may physically have a very healthy heart and a very weak mind. Jesus goes to the heart of the matter: He goes to our thinking and our feeling.

Repentance basically is "change." We know that change cannot be forced on us. Forced repentance, forced love, forced forgiveness are contradictions in terms. The genuine followers of Christ are volunteers and lovers. You are not perfect, neither am I, so let's make the best of our flaws!

Capuchin Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Clarification of response to laicization meaning

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. I was offended by the tone of your recent response to "What does laicization mean?" You said the laicization process is "designed to protect the rights of everyone — any victims, the offenders and other Catholics or members of civil society."

This is a loaded statement that makes the popular assumption that all laicized priests are wicked abusers. You didn't mention that a priest can be laicized after walking away from the priesthood for a number of reasons which do not involve abuse.

As the daughter of a laicized priest who left the priesthood in the tumultuous 1960s, I can say you should have thought harder before responding in such a cold way. After 30 years away, he returned to the church, goes to Mass almost daily and prays for himself, family and friends, the church and other priests. You should be added to his list. (Missouri)

A. Perhaps you didn't notice that the questioner in that column specifically asked about a priest who is "laicized because of grievous offenses against Catholic law." I took, that, as it seems you did also, as referring especially to the current scandals of sexual abuse by priests. The response I gave was in that context.

It is worth noting, however, that several possible circumstances may explain a priest's being dismissed from the clerical state, or laicized. Some are punishments for wrongdoing, but others involve dismissal with the priest's own consent or at his request.

Canon law provides that dismissal from the clerical state may occur through a declaration that the ordination was invalid (similar to the declaration of nullity of a marriage); it may be imposed as a penalty; or it may be granted for "most grave causes" to priests who request it (No. 290).

As you say about your father, it is rash to judge Catholic priests who left the ministry, especially in this third way. Many are living full, active and faithful Catholic lives. It is a mistake to assume otherwise.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, Ill. 61612, or email jjdietzen@aol.com.

Free speech in church

Sermon content should be protected for religious freedom

If a priest or minister is preaching the Word of God, would you agree that he should be free in this country to say what needs to be said in order to apply that Word of God to the circumstances of our times?

That's exactly what Martin Luther King, Jr. thought, and he said this the night before he was assassinated: "It's all right to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day, God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee."

The Second Vatican Council also defended the freedom of the preacher in these words in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World: "... At all times and in all places, the Church should have the true freedom to teach the faith, to proclaim its teaching about society, to carry out its task among men without hindrance, and to pass moral judgment even in matters relating to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it" (GS 76).

But in 1954, this freedom was threatened when Lyndon Johnson introduced an amendment into the tax code to protect himself from anti-communist groups that were threatening his re-election. Johnson was not

targeting churches, but his action affected them, because the amendment said that tax-exempt groups could not intervene in political campaigns.

This amendment to the tax code was inserted without hearings or debate; it was done literally within a few minutes.

Now, many bishops, priests and ministers are confused and intimidated about "preaching about politics," to the point that some church attorneys even gave legal advice in the last election cycle saying that churches should not quote the president talking about the "Culture of Life," because, after all, he was running for re-election.

A piece of legislation has been introduced in Congress to restore some sanity to the situation. The Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act (HR 235) will protect the contents of the sermons and religious teachings delivered in our nation's churches by insuring that such content does not become the basis for challenging a church's tax-exempt status.

Freedom of speech is a bedrock of our republic. It takes on an even greater dimension when considered in the context of churches. Those who preach and teach the Word of God are carrying out a mission not given

Guest Column

FATHER
FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



to them by an earthly authority, but rather entrusted to them by the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The content of a sermon or religious teaching, therefore, has to be protected in order to insure that religion can be freely and properly exercised, that the preacher can fulfill the sacred duties to which he is solemnly committed, and that the congregation can receive the clear and robust teaching of their religion, free of distortion, dilution, or apology.

That's why each of us should contact our representative in Congress and urge support for HR 235, the Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act.

Father Frank Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

PARISH PROFILE

Family of faith: St. Joseph Church serves Catholics in Catawba County



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Joseph Church in Newton has served Catholics in Catawba County for more than 30 years.

NEWTON — In the late 1800s, Catholic priests visited the Hickory area to do missionary work. They continued to celebrate Mass periodically until 1928, when Benedictine priests began celebrating weekly Masses in Hickory's St. Aloysius Church.

While Catholics in Catawba County had been gathering to attend Mass from time to time for almost a century, it took until 1965 for land to be purchased on which to build a mission church in Newton.

During the early 1970s, Msgr. Eu-

gene Livelsberger, then-pastor of St. Aloysius Church, saw the Catholic population in his Catawba County region grow. In 1977, ground was broken to begin construction on a new church in Newton, which was dedicated in October 1978.

Then-Bishop Michael J. Begley served as celebrant of the dedication Mass of St. Joseph Church, after which Msgr. Livelsberger and his pastoral associate, Father John Murray, continued to offer Mass for Catholics in Newton. The new Catholic Church received a

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

720 West 13th St.
Newton, N.C. 28658
(828) 464-9207

Vicariate: Hickory

Pastor: Father James Collins

Permanent Deacons: Deacon Scott Gilfillan, Deacon George McMahon

Number of Households: 500



Father James Collins

warm welcome, as its mortgage had been paid in full even before that first Mass was celebrated.

Although established as a mission church of St. Aloysius Church, St. Joseph experienced rapid growth. Bishop Begley, in turn, installed Father John Hoover as its first resident priest in December 1979, thereby granting parish status to St. Joseph Church.

The parish quickly turned its attention to expanding outreach efforts. The pastoral council voted to build a parish center for faith formation and social activities. Named Holy Family Hall, it was completed in the fall of 1982.

St. Joseph Church has continued to welcome all seeking to share in the Lord's grace. Father Richard Hokanson was pastor from 1991 to 1997. Father Gordon Pillon served as administrator from 1997 to 1999.

Father James Collins assumed the pastorate of St. Joseph Church in 1999.

Community is a staple of the Newton church. In addition to a variety of active parish commissions, St. Joseph parishioners volunteer their time to such efforts as Knights of Columbus; Prime Timers, a retiree group; and youth and Hispanic ministries. With Deacon Scott

Gilfillan's direction, the parish has become active in prison ministry.

Trained parishioners also are involved in a ministry to the sick. Community outreach programs include support of such organizations as Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, The Corner Table soup kitchen and the Pregnancy Care Center.

The parish strongly illustrated its embrace of ecumenism in October 1996 when St. Joseph Church celebrated five years of dialogue with Beth Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church. The festivities included the signing of a historical covenant between the two churches, outlining an agreement to work together toward unity as they approached the millennium.

That relationship continues today as both churches continue to work together for Christian unity. This past January, Bishop Peter J. Jugis went to St. Joseph Church to participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service along with representatives of Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Church of Christ churches.

St. Joseph Church experienced a devastating fire on Feb. 28, 2002, the result of a candle left burning in the church's chapel. While the majority of the structural, mechanical and electrical damage was contained to the chapel, the sanctuary received extensive smoke damage.

The congregation turned the tragedy into an opportunity for rebuilding, improving and enlarging the church. The sanctuary was expanded and classrooms were added to alleviate overcrowding.

During the 13-month rebuilding project, Mass was celebrated in the parish hall. The newly renovated church saw its first celebration of Mass on Holy Thursday in April. Then-Bishop William G. Curlin rededicated the church on June 15, 2003.

In June 2004, the Alma Mae Hoover Carpenter and Charles Harold Carpenter Endowment Fund for the Benefit of St. Joseph Parish was established through the Foundation for the Diocese of Charlotte. Interest generated from the \$200,000 endowment, donated by parishioner Charles Carpenter, assists in non-budgeted needs of the parish.

Although it is less than 30 years old, St. Joseph Church is the product of decades of Catholicism's presence in western North Carolina. From its beginnings as a mission church to a thriving parish community today, it has proven to be an active family of faith.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Liturgical Norms
*Bishop Peter J. Jugis
introduces new liturgical
norms in the Diocese of
Charlotte*

| PAGES 9-11

MARCH 11, 2005 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 14 NO 23

Growing up in the faith



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Sierra Franklin, 10, offers batons to Olivia Masciarelli, 1. On Preschool Faith Day at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley March 5, children ages 6-10 helped the younger children as a way to give alms for Lent.

Preschool Faith Day allows kids, parents to play, learn

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT
MAGGIE VALLEY — Preschool Faith Day at St. Margaret of Scotland Church gave kids a chance to learn and play, while parents looked at the materials that will be used for preschool faith formation this fall.

St. Margaret of Scotland Church historically has had a majority of adults and retirees, but now more families are moving to the area and joining the parish. In May, nine youngsters will make their first Communion, the most in a number of years.

About 15 children, ages 5 months to 10 years, attended the faith day, in the parish hall March 5.

"It was nice to see all the

See PRESCHOOL, page 7

RECOMMITTING FAITH

Deacons recommit to ministry, service

CANDIDATES ADVANCE TOWARD DIACONATE

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT
CHARLOTTE — Deacons and their wives recently converged for their annual recommitment ceremony.

The annual Mass, this year celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 5, is a time for deacons to renew their spirit as they continue their

See DEACONS, page 8

SACRED SLEUTH Archeologist believes he has found St. Paul's tomb

SARCOPHAGUS BURIED BENEATH BASILICA

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A Vatican archeologist believes he has rediscovered the tomb of St. Paul, buried deep beneath the main altar of the Rome basilica dedicated to the apostle.

The sarcophagus, which lay

See TQMB, page 17

A NEW VISION Catechists discuss lifelong faith formation in parishes

Speaker emphasizes learning, not teaching

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — "Isn't it interesting how we try to force God into people?" Leif Kehrwald asked. "But God is already there. Why don't we create an atmosphere for people to discover God's presence in their lives?"

Lifelong faith formation

involving the whole parish community can foster that atmosphere, said Kehrwald, project coordinator for family and intergenerational services for the Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Conn. He spoke on "Toward a 'Whole' Vision for Faith Formation" at the Catholic

See FAITH, page 5



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Leif Kehrwald speaks on whole-community catechesis at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 3.

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In Our Schools
*Students design new school;
Guardsman visits; outreach efforts*

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Perspectives
Toxic thinking; Vatican II's spirit; 'Gospel of Life'

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Catholic life thrives at St. Gabriel Church

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

COMMANDING ATTENTION



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Kermit Phillips of New River, Tenn., and Eric Herman of Millersville, Md., stand in front of the U.S. Supreme Court March 2 with signs illustrating their opposing positions on whether Ten Commandments monuments should be displayed on government property. The Supreme Court heard arguments in two cases regarding such displays.

Supreme Court hears arguments in two Ten Commandments cases

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In two cases argued March 2 over displays of the Ten Commandments on government property, Supreme Court justices raised questions about the motives of government authorities who ordered the displays, about the difference between versions of the commandments, and about what sort of tests should be used to evaluate the displays' constitutionality.

In the cases, the court is being asked to rule on the constitutionality of a 40-year-old granite Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the Texas state Capitol in Austin, and on displays of framed copies of the commandments amid other historic documents on the walls of courthouses in McCreary and Pulaski counties in Kentucky.

Although some defenders of the monuments have portrayed the cases as a critical turning point for religious rights, other legal observers have said it is more likely that they will affect little more than other such monuments.

Supporters of the monuments in both cases, including the acting U.S. solicitor general, argued that the Texas Legislature and county supervisors in the two Kentucky counties were not promoting a particular religion but merely giving appropriate credit to the historic importance of the commandments in the foundation of the U.S. government and its legal system.

Attorneys for opponents of the monu-

ments tended to stick to the specific circumstances of each case, avoiding the justices' efforts to discuss the circumstances under which it would be appropriate to have government-sponsored displays of the Ten Commandments.

Attorney David Friedman, arguing for the American Civil Liberties Union in its case, *McCreary County vs. ACLU of Kentucky*, said the counties' supervisors "absolutely intended and felt they had a right to display the Ten Commandments because of the religious nature of the displays."

Even a third version of the display, which included equal-sized versions of other historic documents in addition to the commandments, emphasized that the tablets Moses received from God are "the foundation of our legal system," he said.

Such monuments around the country typically include the version of the commandments familiar to most Protestants. It differs from the one familiar to Catholics in that it includes a prohibition on worshipping graven images and combines what the Catholic version treats as two commandments forbidding coveting a neighbor's wife and coveting a neighbor's goods.

Justice Antonin Scalia argued that "it doesn't matter what version it is if it stands for the belief that the law is from God."

When somebody walks by such a monument, he said, it's not important what the exact words are, but that they remind people of God's role in shaping the founders' beliefs and the system of law.

Cuban bishops say cardinal treated poorly by U.S. officials

HAVANA (CNS) — Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino was held for three hours and treated disrespectfully by U.S. immigration officials at the Miami airport when he tried to enter the United States on a Vatican diplomatic passport at the end of February, said the Cuban bishops.

An official wanted to open a file on the cardinal as a possible dangerous person and began asking him questions, which he refused to answer, said the bishops in a March 3 statement.

The cardinal said he told the U.S. officials he was a well-known figure and complained that they were arbitrary in deciding which Cubans needed a file, according to the bishops' statement.

Cardinal Ortega is president of the Cuban bishops' conference and head of the Havana Archdiocese. He is a frequent traveler to Miami, where there is a large Cuban-American community.

The incident occurred Feb. 25 and was first reported Feb. 28 by *El Nuevo Herald*, a

Miami Spanish-language daily newspaper, citing unnamed sources.

Zachary Mann, a Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman, told Catholic News Service that the cardinal was treated courteously and professionally and was held for an hour.

The bishops said that the treatment of the cardinal was "brusque and discourteous," and he was told he had no choice but to answer the questions if he wanted to enter the United States.

When the cardinal said he had the option of returning to Cuba, an official told him he had been given permission to stay in the United States for 30 days, said the bishops.

During the cardinal's time at the airport, U.S. officials made no mention of the cardinal's criticisms of the Cuban and U.S. governments, said the bishops.

Cardinal Ortega has criticized restrictions on religious liberty in Cuba and has opposed the U.S. economic embargo against the island nation.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — UNC-Asheville will host a talk on "Catholic Social Teaching" by Father David A. Boileu of Loyola University March 14 at 7:30 p.m., at UNC-A's Highsmith University Union Swannanoa Room, 1 University Heights. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call UNC-Asheville's Center for Diversity Education at (828) 232-5024.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, invites all to *Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament* March 18. Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by Benediction and adoration until midnight. You may come at any time of the evening for as long as you like to visit and spend time with our Lord before His True

Presence. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Ministry Center will present "Dealing with the years that follow" March 16, 6:30-8 p.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. While attention is usually focused on persons who are grieving in the first year after a death occurs, the needs of grieving persons go on. Spiritual friendship, care and concern are still needed, regardless of how much time has passed since the loss. We will explore some of these feelings and ways to cope, as well as signs that may point to the need for specific grief work. The presenter will be Janice Olive of Hospice of Charlotte. For more information, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — A *Polish-language Mass* will be celebrated at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Palm Sunday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m. in the Daily Mass Chapel. Reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — As the 40th anniversary of the closing of *Vatican Council II* approaches, many Catholics are still unaware of the importance of this Ecumenical Council. Msgr. John McSweeney will be giving several presentations on what Vatican II really was and its importance to the Church. All sessions will meet in the New Life Center, room 102, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The program meets Mondays, March 21 and April 4 from 7-8:15 p.m. or Tuesdays, March 22 and April 5, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Childcare is available by reservation at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — All women of the diocese are invited to the annual women's day at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican says cardinals to stand in for pope during Holy Week

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican announced that a series of cardinals would be standing in for Pope John Paul II in the celebration of Holy Week events.

For the first time in his 26-year pontificate, the pope was not scheduled to preside over Holy Week and Easter celebrations, said a March 8 Vatican press statement.

However, the pope was expected to impart the papal blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world) March 27, Easter, following Mass presided over by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state.

Where the pope would be when he was to offer his Easter blessing "was left purposely vague," said a Vatican official, since it was still unclear as to what extent the pope would be able to resume

activities following his hospitalization for respiratory problems and a tracheotomy.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said March 7 the Vatican hoped the pope would be back in the Vatican for Holy Week, but he would decide how or if he would participate in the week's many liturgies.

Over the past few years, due to his limited mobility, the pope has forgone performing certain Holy Week rituals, such as washing the feet of priests on Holy Thursday and carrying the cross on Good Friday; instead, he has assigned the task to others.

This time several cardinals, including U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford of the Apostolic Penitentiary, have been asked to preside over the Holy Week liturgies and events.

March 12. Anyone interested in participating should call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — Rev. Steve Holcomb, pastor for Grace Mountainside Lutheran and Episcopal fellowship in Robbinsville, will preach the final in a series of *Community Lenten Worship Services* March 16, 12-12:30 p.m. at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The series is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — The newly formed *Triad Pax Christi* group will meet March 20, 3:30-5 p.m. at Holy Cross Church Child Development Center, 616 S. Cherry St. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month and will open with prayer, sacred silence, followed by a focus speaker with open discussion on the focus topic, as well as general issues related to peace and justice. Call for directions or information; reservations help us with planning, however drop-ins are always welcome. Call Pat Henderson, Parish Care office, Holy Cross Church (336) 996-5109, ext. 12 or Marcia Kelley, (336) 784-0985.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., invites all Catholics who have been inactive, feel alienated or want to take another look at the Catholic Church to attend a series of sessions designed to address issue that have perhaps cause a feeling of estrangement. *Re-Membering Church* will meet Wednesdays, April 20 through May 25, at following the 7 p.m. Mass For more information, call Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 13-14
USCCB Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry
Baltimore, Md.

March 20 -11 a.m.
Palm Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Charlotte

Official says Catholic-Muslim committee prayed for hospitalized pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic and Muslim members of a joint interreligious committee opened their one-day meeting in Cairo, Egypt, with a silent prayer for Pope John Paul II who was hospitalized that same day.

The Feb. 24 meeting of the joint committee of the Permanent Committee of al-Azhar for Dialogue with Monotheistic Religions and the Vatican's Council for Interreligious Dialogue "began with a silent prayer with special intentions going for the Holy Father," a Vatican official said March 7.

Pope John Paul was rushed to Rome's Gemelli hospital the morning of Feb. 24 after suffering a recurrence of respiratory problems. He was hospitalized Feb. 1-10 for treatment of a flu-related inflammation of the throat.

The joint committee meets once each year to discuss issues important to Islamic-Catholic relations. This year, delegates discussed the church's call to mission and the similar call in Islam to Da'wa.

Da'wa is the duty of Muslims to convey the message of Islam to non-Muslims. The aim of Christian mission is to propagate Christianity or to carry out humanitarian work.

A delicate balance must be struck by both religions to spread their faith without falling into proselytization, that is,

inducing another to convert to one's own religious faith.

In a written press release, the joint committee asked that while Catholics follow their call to mission and Muslims their duty to Da'wa "the freedom of belief of each person be respected."

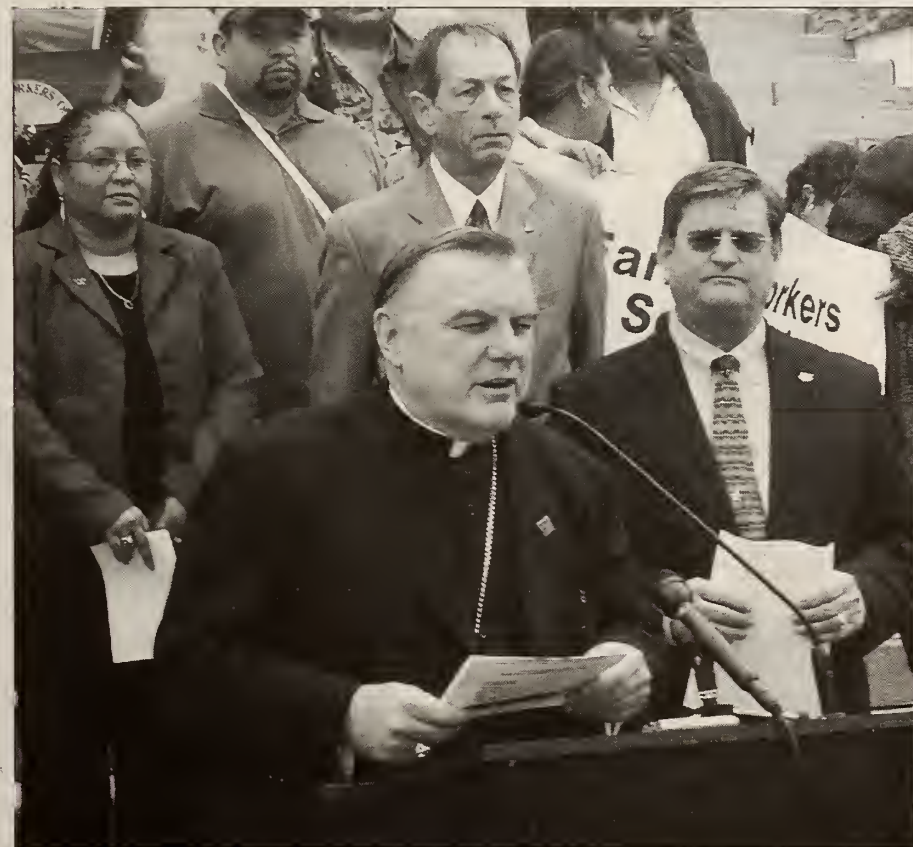
Both sides agreed that in the formation of Catholic missionaries and Muslims engaged in Da'wa, religious educational institutions played an important role in instilling a sense of respect for others' beliefs.

The joint committee agreed that every person has a "right to seek truth and to follow it according to their conscience without fear of incurring punishment" or undergoing pressure "to go against their conscience."

Muslim and Catholic delegates also appealed to the international community to "not link together religion and terrorism since terrorism has no religion." Christianity and Islam "call for peace, fraternity and love among all human beings," the statement said.

The Vatican delegation to this year's joint committee included the head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, and the apostolic nuncio to Egypt, Archbishop Marco Brogi.

Farming support



CNS PHOTO JACQUELYN HORKAN, FLORIDA CATHOLIC

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., leading spokesman in the church in immigration matters and former chairman of the U.S. bishops' migration committee, speaks at a press conference on a federal measure known as AgJOBS Feb. 24 in Tallahassee, Fla. He is joined by farmworkers and farming leaders to support the bill allowing farm laborers who are now in the country, whether legally or illegally, to become legal residents and eventually U.S. citizens. If the bill is passed, immigrant farmworkers will be able to register for temporary legal residency. They could then earn permanent residency by working in agriculture for a specified amount of time. "It is not an amnesty program," said Bishop Wenski. "These are workers who have invested sweat equity and they deserve legal immigration status."

DEPICTING FAITH

Paintings on beatitudes brighten church

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — At one church, people are looking at the beatitudes in a whole new way.

Parishioners saw the arrival of 16 paintings at St. Pius X Church Feb. 24. The eight color and eight black-and-white paintings depict the beatitudes of Jesus from the perspectives of the world and God.

Dee Schenck Rhodes, the artist, is the stepdaughter of a parishioner at the church.

The beatitudes, teachings of Jesus, describe the ideal Christian character and lay down some of the guiding principles of Christian morality.

The paintings will remain on public display at the church until March 17, according to Tracy Welliver, pastoral associate. Because the paintings are going to be used for the main theme in Lent at St. Pius X Church, they have temporarily replaced eight of the Stations of the Cross. The paintings will be taken down on each Friday morning during that time period for veneration of the Stations.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Tracy Welliver, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, hangs paintings of the beatitudes at the church.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Pictured is a painting by Dee Schenck Rhodes of one of the beatitudes: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. The painting and others depicting the beatitudes hang in St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

"They (the paintings) add a lot to our Lenten season," said Welliver. "Msgr. (Anthony) Marcaccio had delivered a very good homily on the beatitudes, and now we can visualize them differently through the work of Dee Rhodes."

"I think it is good to have another form of sacred art to brighten the church," said Welliver.

"The colors really bring out more emotions and they make you think about it (the theme of the beatitudes) a lot more," said Brian Rachal, a member of St. Pius X Church's RCIA program, who helped hang the paintings.

In addition to the paintings, there will be copies of the book "Blessed Paradoxes: the Beatitudes as Painted Prayer" with pictures by Rhodes and poetic commentary available for reference and/or devotion.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

SHINING LIGHTS

Women unite for World Day of Prayer service

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Catholic women in Poland helped write this year's World Day of Prayer worship service, and Catholic women in the Hickory area helped organize a service close to home.

Carole Marmorato, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church who for eight years has headed the planning committee of Church Women United's local chapter, received a bouquet of roses at the end of this year's ecumenical service at First Presbyterian Church March 4. The gift was from members of the Fraternity of Brother Francis, recognizing Marmorato's role in the community effort.

"I have really come to know a lot of wonderful people while doing this," said Marmorato. "The enthusiasm of the 12 to 15 women who help me do this year after year really helps me."

"I am also really thankful for the support I get from St. Aloysius (Church)," she said. "This is an official ministry of our church through the Community Life commission."

The World Day of Prayer is an international event uniting Christian women in 179

countries. The first event took place in Poland in 1927. In the United States, the service is sponsored and supported by Church Women United, an ecumenical movement working to bring peace and justice.

Women from 18 churches of various denominations in the Hickory area are involved in preparation for the service each year.

The women began the service by passing out bread and salt, symbols of hospitality in Poland, to welcome those in attendance. The theme, "Let Our Light Shine," was reinforced by the Scripture readings and by the lighting of candles near the end of the service.

Dr. Emmanuel Gitlin, professor emeritus of religion at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, spoke during the service about his experiences growing up in his native Poland, and gave some information about the history, religion, and customs in the country. He led a prayer for the health of the pope, and also prayed in Polish, with the congregation repeating prayers in English.

Musicians from First Presbyterian and Zion Lutheran churches provided the music, which included a piece by the First Presbyterian handbell choir.



PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Women light candles during the World Day of Prayer worship service in Hickory March 4

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FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Leif Kehrwald chats with Ann Peters of St. James Church in Hamlet during a session of parish catechetical leader in-service training at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 3.

Catechists discuss lifelong faith formation in parishes

FAITH, from page 1

Conference Center March 3.

This session of parish catechetical leader in-service training was sponsored by Harcourt Religion Publishers and was coordinated by the Diocese of Charlotte's Central Region Leadership Team. It was a follow-up to last year's program with Bill Huebsch on whole community catechesis.

"I think this is the trend in the church, toward whole-community catechesis," said Carol Brown of the Central Region team.

Kehrwald based his talks on the "General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)," which speaks of getting beyond a "school-house" format of children, teachers and classes to entire-community involvement.

Times have changed, he said, since his boyhood when every room in his house had a crucifix — "even the walls catechized."

"There needs to be some sort of rootedness and right now [people] don't see the root," said Mercy Sister Carolyn Coll, director of faith formation at St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

"I see movement for the sake of movement," she said. "What I see (in society in general) is a lack of fire. How do we create a fire that enriches the community?"

more than 1,000 parishes across North America."

As an example of event-centered catechesis, Kehrwald said, "Imagine First Communion as a learning experience of the whole community. Can you imagine what it would be like if we all said, 'Wow, how incredible this Eucharist is?'"

His own parish, St. Francis of Assisi,

'The life of the parish is crucial to the faith growth of families, but families are crucial to the faith growth of the parish.'

Kehrwald emphasized learning, not teaching.

"No textbook series can provide full faith formation," he said. "All generations are crucial: parents to children, children to parents. The life of the parish is crucial to the faith growth of families, but families are critical to the faith growth of the parish. What do we bring on Sunday but what we've lived the other six days?"

In fact, Kehrwald said, community comes before texts.

"When people ask what curriculum you use, please do not give the name of a publisher," he said. "... Curriculum lies within the community. We need to know Jesus, not just know about Jesus."

The GDC backs this up: "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. All evangelizing activity is understood as promoting communion with Jesus Christ" (80).

"In a learning community, we sense the presence and activity of God so, therefore, there is spiritual growth and discipleship," Kehrwald said. "This leads to outreach and mission — works of outreach and generosity for others, then ourselves. This is a sense of culture that is larger than its component parts."

Kehrwald focused on faith formation centered around events in the liturgical year, lifelong and systematic catechesis connected to real life, and intergenerational catechesis with everyone in the parish involved.

"I can tell you that they work," Kehrwald said. "We're working with

recalled how God spoke to Francis, telling him to "Rebuild my church, which you see is falling to ruin." Kehrwald said parishioners prepared for the feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4, by "learning about St. Francis, Franciscan values, and how we are all called to rebuild the church. It was a terrific learning experience."

Connected catechesis, Kehrwald said, includes reflection at home before participating in services at church. For instance, he said, "It doesn't make sense to come (to Mass) on Holy Thursday if you don't take time to think and pray at home about what it means to wash each other's feet."

Kehrwald said a pastor's involvement is crucial. He suggested helping pastors to get a taste of the concept by inviting them to training sessions that focus on whole-community catechesis.

Donna Tarney of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte said that it only takes one person to get things rolling.

"No one can stop me from arranging an event that involves all generations," she said. "Once you start, they'll come."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.



The Office of Faith Formation is one of 36 ministries funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

DESIGNS IN MIND



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bailey Miller and Miles Jordan, eighth-graders at Sacred Heart School, present their plans for a new school to members of the building committee March 4.

Students unveil ideas for new school facility

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church recently purchased 40 acres on which to build a new church, school and multipurpose facility.

The new property gave the eighth-grade class an opportunity to use their math skills and give some valuable input for the new school.

Students worked in pairs for three weeks to design new school plans. The teams then each submitted a scale drawing or model and a two-to-three page paper explaining the reasoning and concepts used.

The entire student body, faculty and staff were surveyed to evaluate the needs

for the new facility. The students then incorporated the feedback into their designs.

The majority of the designs included larger classrooms, covered walkways, expanded parking areas and separate wings for the elementary and middle school classes.

As part of their grade, the students presented their designs to representatives of the building committee March 4.

"Although no decision has been made as to what building will be built first on the new property, I felt having students design a future school would both meet math curriculum objectives and give students a voice in the building process," said Kathleen Miller, principal of Sacred Heart School.

Deeds of love and faith



COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA HORTON

First- and fourth-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte prepare 200 lunches to help feed the homeless at Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte Feb. 22. The lunches each contained two sandwiches, an apple, cookies and a bag of carrots. The students also decorated the lunch bags with personal messages of love and faith. The outreach effort was part of the school's annual Lenten "Good Deeds" service projects, which included collecting books for Thompson Child Development Center in Charlotte and dog toys for the Humane Society animal shelter, and raising donations for the school's Pennies for Patients Campaign for the Leukemia Society and Samaritan's Feet.

Masking fun



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Sheri Smith and her homeroom class of first-graders get into the Mardi Gras spirit in February with decorative masks and other decorations at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro.

Reading for relief



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Emma Rose Lowder presents a check for \$250 to Terri Jarina, program director for the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services. Emma Rose, a kindergartner at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, raised the money by collecting pledges for reading books. She read 100 books and donated the money to Catholic Relief Services for tsunami relief. Patrick Lowder, Emma Rose's father, works for Bank of America, which matched Emma Rose's contribution, for a total of \$500 raised by the six-year-old.

WRITERS SOUGHT !

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Celebrating faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Children from St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet perform during a bilingual children's liturgy at the church, opening the Family Lenten Activity Day Feb. 20. About 100 people attend the bi-monthly event that involves the entire parish in whole-community catechesis.

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Kids, parents enjoy Preschool Faith Day

PRESCHOOL, from page 1

children gathered together," said Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor. "I hope their enthusiasm will make our parishioners even more committed."

The children visited four "stations": music, with songs such as "Jesus Loves Me"; Easter stories about Jesus, his care for children, and Hebrew Scripture stories such as Noah and the Ark; activities with Bible puzzles and puppets with Bible figures; and crafts, including making colorful cross-and-bead necklaces and Easter bonnets made from paper plates and bowls.

Parents helped out with snacks and at the four stations.

"It was just that they get to know each other better, so when they start in the fall they'll know each other better," said Michelle Pipitone, who was there with her daughters Michaela, 10, and Madeleine, 8, and son 5-year-old son Nicolo.

"In church they have to be quiet, so today they could play together," said Pipitone.

The 6- to 10-year-olds helped the younger ones.

"This was their almsgiving for Lent," said Tracey Fowler of the faith formation team.

Alex and Tina Masciarelli brought their daughters: Sophia, 4, Fiona, 2, and Olivia, 1.

"It's just a chance for the kids to get together, to learn and have fun together," Alex said. "Our parish has been growing and changing, and we need this."

Tina agreed. She and her husband plan to help out.

"Our children's spiritual formation is very important to us," she said. "I think it's important for our kids to see us doing it together. We come to church together, pray together, eat dinner together every night."

Both parents work full time. Alex teaches Spanish at Waynesville Middle School; Tina is a social worker with REACH of Haywood County, which helps abused women and children.

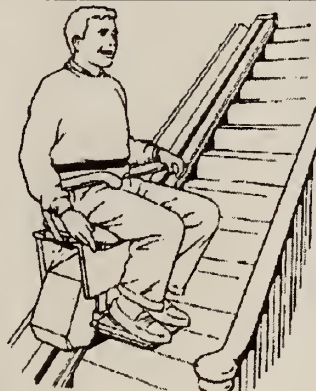
She said that's one of the reasons that she and her husband are committed to a strong, family-oriented faith formation program, because, "being a social worker, I see what happens to kids down the road who don't have that."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.



PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Tracey Fowler of the faith formation team helps 7-year-olds Kelly Leon (center) and Sydney Franklin make Easter bonnets out of paper bowls during Preschool Faith Day at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley March 5.



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PHOTOS BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Above: Deacons and wives attend the recommitment Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 5.

Bellow: Diaconate candidate Stephen Pickett and his son Kaheem speak with Bishop Peter J. Jugis at the celebration dinner after the recommitment Mass for deacons March 5.



Deacons recommit to ministry, service

DEACONS, from page 1

individual journeys and renew their commitment to Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"This is a joyous occasion that brings each of us the joy of serving, as well as the realization of whom we are doing it for," said Deacon Timothy Rohan, permanent deacon at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. "The grace we receive when renewing our vows helps us to continue to faithfully serve God's people to the best of our ability."

The Mass was also a time for the deacons' wives to once again renew their promises of support for their husbands in their ministry.

"This is a wonderful occasion that brings all of God's servants together for renewal and to remind ourselves of our purpose and mission as deacons," said Deacon Jeffrey Evers, permanent deacon at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

"We came to remember what we committed ourselves to at ordination and to recommit ourselves to the next year fully renewed in spirit," said Deacon John Sims, permanent deacon at St. Therese Church in Mooresville.

Candidates for the permanent diaconate, who were instituted into the Office of Reader by Bishop Jugis during the Mass, and their wives and relatives joined in the celebration. For the candidates, the event was a major step in the long journey to ordination as deacons.

"In receiving the Bible during the rite of institution today, you candidates are to see to it that the Word of God grows strong in the hearts of Christ's people, and that it grows strong in your own hearts, too," said Bishop Jugis during his homily to the candidates.

"This was a very meaningful time for us as we go through our spiritual journey," said candidate Richard Hanners. "We, that

is, all of the men in the program are grateful to serve."

"It was especially momentous because I was baptized at St. Patrick's," said candidate Kevin Williams. "It was neat to have come this far in our journey towards ordination."

"It makes everything more real about the whole process (towards ordination)," said Theresa Williams, Kevin's wife. "It's a blessing to have the entire deacon community together with the candidates."

"What the Lord asks of his servants is humility," said the bishop.

Bishop Jugis spoke about Christ's role as a model of humility right up to his total humiliation on the cross.

"Those who serve Christ must be like the Divine Master ... (they) must identify themselves with the Master in all things," said the bishop. "The Lord's people must see Christ in us ... through our deeds and in our actions, in and outside the church."

God, as man, came to seek what was lost, said Bishop Jugis.

"This is what people are craving ... they are looking to get on the path to salvation," he said. "You have the light that people want, the light of God leading to salvation. Their hearts will not be at peace until they find the light of Christ."

Bishop Jugis encouraged the deacons and candidates to "seek always to live united to Christ."

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.



The Permanent Diaconate is one of 36 ministries funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

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New liturgical norms for Diocese of Charlotte

Vatican says Mass norms promote reverence

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis has promulgated new liturgical norms for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The new norms, which cover all aspects of the Mass from Introductory Rites to Communion, will take effect Holy Thursday, March 24.

The norms for celebrating Mass ensure reverence for the Eucharist and preserve the unity of the Catholic Church, according to a recent Vatican document.

"Liturgical norms are necessary because 'in liturgy full public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and by the members,'" said the document, "Redemptionis Sacramentum" ("The Sacrament of Redemption"), written by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

"No one should be surprised if, with the passage of time, Holy Mother Church has developed words and actions, and therefore directives, for this supreme act of worship," said the document, ap-

proved by Pope John Paul II and released in April 2004. "Eucharistic norms are devised to express and protect the Eucharistic mystery and also manifest that it is the Church that celebrates this august sacrifice and Sacrament."

The Vatican confirmed the English translation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal March 19, 2003. The General Instruction presents norms for the celebration of Mass.

It includes detailed instructions for each part of the Mass; for the duties of the celebrant, other ministers and the people; for differences when there are concelebrants and when a deacon is present or not; for the arrangement and furnishing of churches; and for the bread and wine, the vessels and vestments.

"The current norms, prescribed in keeping with the will of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, and the new Missal that the Church of the Roman Rite is to use from now on in the celebration of Mass are also evidence of the great concern of the Church, of her faith, and of her unchanged love for the great mystery of the Eucharist," said the instruction.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, 11). After many years of preparation, the third typical edition of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal was approved in English translation on March 17, 2003. This document provides the framework of our celebration of the Sacred Mysteries and guides us that we may celebrate the Holy Sacrifice in unity and peace. On March 25, 2004 the Holy See issued a further instruction on the Eucharist entitled, "Redemptionis Sacramentum" ("The Sacrament of Redemption") to provide greater clarity to certain matters regarding the Most Holy Eucharist and "to preserve this mystery of faith with reverence, care, devotion and love."

It is with this in mind that I have the joy of promulgating the following liturgical norms for the Diocese of Charlotte. They are outlined here for the benefit of all the Christian faithful of our Diocese and are to be considered normative for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy on Holy Thursday, March 24, 2005, the beginning of the Triduum of Easter.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D.
Bishop of Charlotte

Liturgical Norms of the Diocese of Charlotte

General Norms

1. It is the right of all of Christ's faithful that the Liturgy, and in particular the celebration of Holy Mass, should truly be as the Church wishes, according to the stipulations as prescribed in the liturgical books and in the other laws and norms.¹ The norms set forth here, therefore, are presented to insure the prayerful and worthy celebration of the Sacred Mysteries within the Diocese of Charlotte so that all of God's faithful might celebrate with one heart and one voice.

2. Any construction or significant alteration of a sanctuary requires the approval of the bishop.

3. The preference is that the tabernacle should be located in the sanctuary, apart from the altar of sacrifice in an appropriate place, not excluding an older altar no longer used for celebration. The tabernacle is to be immovable and non-transparent and locked in such a way that the danger of profanation is prevented to the greatest extent possible.² The sanctuary as defined by the *General Instruction* is the place where the altar stands, where the word of God is proclaimed, and where the priest, the deacon, and the other ministers exercise their offices.³

4. There is to be a crucifix permanently displayed near the altar and visible to the congregation. There should be only one crucifix prominently displayed in the sanctuary. If a processional crucifix is used, it should not remain in the sanctuary during the celebration of Mass.⁴

5. All parish churches and chapels are to have kneelers so that the faithful might kneel for both the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy and private devotion.

6. The words of prayers, responses and readings are to be utilized as they appear in the approved Mass texts. For example, The Nicene Creed, the response at the *Orationes fratres*, and the preface dialogue, and other Mass texts are not to be altered. No foreign elements are to be introduced into the liturgy other than those that are called for by the liturgical norms, e.g. liturgical dance.⁵

7. Sacred song is prayer "prayed twice."⁶ The people's participation in sacred song should be carefully nurtured and a parish repertory of sacred music should be developed over time. Purely secular lyrics have no place in the sacred liturgy.⁷

8. Silence can foster reverence and reflection. Before Mass begins, a time of silence is commendable in the church, the sacristy, and in adjacent areas so that all may be disposed to carry out the sacred actions in a devout and fitting manner. Sacred silence, as a part of the celebration, is also to be observed at the designated times: for example, after each invitation to pray, at the conclusion of each reading, after the homily, and after Communion.⁸

9. All presidential texts are to be spoken or sung in a loud and clear voice so that everyone might hear them. While the presiding priest is speaking these texts, the organ or other musical instruments should be silent.⁹

10. With the exception of the altar cloth, which should usually remain on the altar at all times, the altar

should be as bare as possible before Mass begins. No vessels or books should be on the altar before Mass. If the altar candles block the people's view, they should be placed near, but not on the altar.¹⁰

11. When altar coverings other than white are used, the uppermost cloth must be white.¹¹ The corporal, which is the cloth placed immediately beneath the chalice and paten for the celebration of the Mass, should be unfolded and placed on the altar at the Presentation of the Gifts,¹² and should be removed from the altar at the end of the Communion Rite for proper laundering. "Permanent" corporals that remain on the altar from Mass to Mass are not appropriate. It may be necessary to use several corporals on which are placed the extra ciboria and communion cups.

12. Planning for the Mass should include providing for a sufficient number of hosts to be consecrated so that all can receive hosts consecrated during that Mass, underlining the connection between consecration and communion. Generally, reserved hosts should not be brought from the tabernacle unless needed at a particular Mass.¹³

13. The sacred vessels should be made of precious metal; Materials that break easily may not be used; e.g., glass, ceramic, porcelain, & crystal.¹⁴ Materials that are deemed precious to a region, e.g. hardwoods, may be used only if they are lined with precious metal.

14. It is a praiseworthy practice to cover the chalice with a veil, which may be either the color of the day or white.¹⁵

15. Appropriate public and private devotion to the Eucharist outside Mass should also be encouraged.¹⁶

16. It is preferable that priests who are present at a Eucharistic Celebration participate as concelebrants. If not, they should participate wearing their proper choir dress or a surplice over a cassock.¹⁷

17. Proper liturgical vesture should be used for the celebration. For priests: the alb, the stole and the chasuble. For the deacon: the alb, the stole, and the dalmatic. If there are not a sufficient number of chasubles for concelebrants, they may concelebrate with the alb and stole.¹⁸

Introductory Rites

18. The procession of the priest(s), deacon(s), and servers through the midst of the people is a striking sign of ministry in the midst of God's people and is highly recommended for Masses celebrated on Sundays and Solemnities, as well as other Masses, when practical. The Book of the Gospels may be carried in procession. This is the role of the deacon if he is present; otherwise, The Book of the Gospels may be carried by a lector. The Lectionary is never processed.¹⁹

19. When the Eucharist is reserved in the sanctuary:²⁰

LITURGICAL NORMS

- * the priests and ministers genuflect as they enter the sanctuary;
- * those carrying incense, the processional cross, or candles simply bow their heads.
- * The deacon or lector carrying the Book of the Gospels approaches the altar and places the book on it, without a bow of the head.²¹

20. When the Eucharist is reserved in a place outside the sanctuary:²²

- * the priests and ministers make a profound bow to the altar as they enter the sanctuary²³;
- * those carrying incense, the processional cross, or candles simply bow their heads.²⁴
- * The deacon or lector carrying the Book of the Gospels approaches the altar and places the book on it, without a bow of the head.²⁵

21. The Lectionary is placed on the ambo before Mass and is never carried in the entrance procession or in the recessional.²⁶

22. The Book of the Gospels may be carried in the entrance procession, slightly elevated, by the deacon, or, in the absence of a deacon, by a lector (reader).²⁷

23. The Book of Gospels is placed at the center of the altar until it is carried to the ambo by the deacon, or in his absence, by the priest who will proclaim the gospel.²⁸

24. After the Sign of the Cross and the Greeting, the presiding priest, the deacon or a lay minister may briefly introduce the Mass of the day. Only the presiding priest, however, may invite the people to take part in the penitential rite.

25. The presiding priest leads Forms A and B, both of which are followed by the (non-sacramental) absolution and the *Kyrie*. Neither the priest nor the people should make a sign of the cross at this point. The presiding priest, the deacon, or a cantor may lead Form C, which incorporates the *Kyrie*.²⁹

26. The Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with Holy Water may replace the Penitential Rite at Sunday Mass. Other introductory rites for special occasions (e.g., the blessing of palms on Passion Sunday, or the blessing of candles on the Presentation) take the place of the Penitential Rite, which is then omitted.

27. Since the *Gloria* is a hymn, it should ordinarily be sung rather than recited, when required by the rubrics. If it cannot be sung, the *Gloria* is recited rather than omitted. It may not be replaced by any other hymn of praise.³⁰

Liturgy of the Word

28. The readings proclaimed as the Word of God must always be taken from Sacred Scripture, according to the norms laid out in the Lectionary.³¹

29. There should be only one ambo. It is used for the proclamation of the Word of God, including the Scripture readings and Responsorial Psalm, as well as the homily and Prayers of the Faithful. The dignity of the ambo requires that only a minister of the word should go up to it. Announcements, presentations, and testimonials are not to be given from the ambo.³²

30. The Responsorial Psalm should be sung, especially on Sundays and Solemnities. If it is not sung, it is recited. As the Psalms are the Word of God, they may not be replaced by songs or non-biblical texts.³³

31. The Gospel Acclamation may be omitted if not sung.³⁴

32. If a deacon is present and ministering at Mass, he should proclaim the Gospel. In his absence, a concelebrating priest may proclaim the Gospel; if there is none of the above, the presiding priest proclaims the Gospel.

33. The homily is required on Sundays and holy days of obligation at Masses celebrated with a congregation and is highly desirable at all Masses. The homily is reserved to the ordained;³⁵ only bishops, priests or deacons may preach the homily at Mass. The presiding priest should normally give the homily, which is properly a reflection on the Scriptural readings or feast of the day, applied to the concrete situation of the community. He may, however, delegate the homily to a deacon or to a concelebrating priest, for a good reason. While laypersons may not deliver the homily, they may translate the homily as it is being delivered by the ordained minister.

34. The Creed is obligatory on Sundays and Solemnities.

35. The proper Profession of Faith on Sundays and Solemnities is the Nicene Creed.³⁶ During the proclamation of the Nicene Creed, all bow at the words: "by the power of Holy Spirit... and became man"; on the Solemnities of the Annunciation and Nativity of the Lord, all genuflect during these words.

36. The presiding priest invites the congregation to join in the Prayers of the Faithful (General Intercessions), addressing the people directly, with hands folded. The deacon is the proper minister of the petitions; in his absence a reader or another member of the lay faithful may announce the petitions.³⁷ The series of intentions in the Prayer of the Faithful follows this order:

- * For the needs of the Church;
- * For public authorities and the salvation of the whole world;
- * For those burdened by any kind of difficulty;
- * For the local community.³⁸

37. The presiding priest concludes the Prayers of the Faithful with a prayer, with his hands extended.³⁹

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

38. The bread and wine to be consecrated, and the offerings for the Church and for the poor are to be

brought up in the offertory procession.⁴⁰ The priest may be assisted by the deacon or other ministers in receiving the gifts. Only the bread and wine are to be placed by the priest on the altar; the other offerings are to be placed away from the Eucharistic table. Nothing should be placed on the main corporal until it is handed to the priest.⁴¹

39. The bread used at Mass must be made only from wheat, recently baked and, according to the ancient tradition of the Latin Church, unleavened.⁴²

40. The wine used must be "from the fruit of the grape vine," natural and unadulterated, that is, without admixture of extraneous substances.⁴³

41. The private prayers of the priest at the Preparation of the Gifts are made only in his name and are to be prayed quietly.⁴⁴ Only prayers beginning with "Blessed are you, Lord..." may be said aloud if there is no music at this point. If there is music or singing it should continue and the prayers said inaudibly. The chalice and paten are raised only slightly from the altar during these prayers.

42. The main chalice should be larger and more prominent than any other cups used; they are all prepared at this time. A drop of water is poured into the main chalice alone. At celebrations involving a large number of cups, they should be filled beforehand and brought to the altar at this time.

43. The pouring of the Blood of Christ after the consecration from one vessel to another is to be avoided, "lest anything should happen that would be to the detriment of so great a mystery." Flagons, bowls, and other vessels that are not fully in accord with the established norms should not be used as containers for the Precious Blood.⁴⁵

44. After the presiding priest washes his hands (lavabo),⁴⁶ the people are to stand when the presiding priest says "pray brethren" (*Orate Fratres*).⁴⁷

Eucharistic Prayer

45. In the dioceses of the United States of America, the people should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the *Holy, Holy (Sanctus)* until after the *Amen* of the Eucharistic prayer, except when prevented on occasion by reason of health, lack of space, the large number of people present, or another good cause. Those who do not kneel should make a profound bow when the priest genuflects after the consecrations.⁴⁸

46. The words of the Eucharistic Prayer belong to the whole Church and are not to be supplemented or altered by the presiding priest. Only approved Eucharistic prayers may be prayed.⁴⁹

47. Instrumental music is not allowed while the celebrant prays the Eucharistic Prayer.

48. The deacon(s) assisting at Mass kneel from the *epiclesis* until the priest shows the chalice to the people, just before the Mystery of Faith.⁵⁰ This rubric does not apply to deacons unable to kneel for reasons of health or age.

49. At the *epiclesis*, when appropriate, a server rings a bell as a signal to the faithful. According to local custom, the server also rings the bell as the priest shows the host and then the chalice.⁵¹

50. The presiding priest does not break the host at the time of the consecration. The fraction rite occurs later in the Mass at the *Lamb of God*.⁵²

51. The words of institution are to be said clearly and distinctly as their meaning demands.

52. At the final doxology ("Through him, with him..."), a deacon stands next to the priest elevating the chalice while the priest elevates the paten with the host. The deacon elevates the chalice to the same height as the priest does the host. If there is no deacon but there is a concelebrating priest, he may elevate the chalice. This elevation is of one paten and one cup. The faithful do not to join in saying or singing the final doxology with the priest.⁵³

Communion

53. Holding hands during the *Our Father* is not found in the *Order of the Mass*.

54. At the Rite of Peace following the *Our Father*, "it is suitable that each person offer the sign of peace only to those nearby and in a dignified manner."⁵⁴

55. The priest should ordinarily not leave the sanctuary during the sign of peace (except on special occasions, e.g. funerals and then only to greet the family of the deceased).⁵⁵ The gift of peace should not seem to flow from the ordained to the laity.

56. The fraction rite (breaking the bread) is reserved to the priest and deacon. Lay persons do not participate in this rite. The *Agnus Dei* litany is sung during this rite. It may be repeated until the fraction is completed, but its last petition is always "grant us peace." Other tropes may replace the phrase "Lamb of God" during such repetitions.⁵⁶

57. The fraction takes place before the showing of the host. The host is broken over the paten and should never be broken in such a way that particles of the Eucharist might be scattered or desecrated in any way.

58. The faithful kneel after the *Agnus Dei*.⁵⁷

59. All concelebrating priests must receive a host consecrated at the same Mass,⁵⁸ and must receive the Precious Blood consecrated at the same Mass.⁵⁹

60. Concelebrating priests genuflect before they receive from the chalice at the altar,⁶⁰ if they are able to do so.

61. The Communion Song should begin when the presiding priest receives Communion.⁶¹

62. The priest may be assisted by extraordinary ministers in the distribution of Communion, if other priests or deacons are not available and there is a large number of communicants. Extraordinary ministers in order of preference for such occasions are: duly instituted acolytes, and then others who have been deputed or commissioned for this purpose. In case of necessity, the priest may depute suitable faithful persons for a single occasion from the congregation.⁶² Pastorally, extraordinary ministers are commissioned for three years at a time. This allows others to participate-especially in large parishes.⁶³

LITURGICAL NORMS

63. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should not approach the altar until after the priest receives both species, they may, however, approach the sanctuary before the priest receives Communion.⁶⁴ The location for the extraordinary ministers prior to receiving Communion is somewhat determined by the physical structure of the building.

64. Communion ministers, as a rule, should receive under both kinds.

65. Extraordinary ministers are always to receive the vessel containing either species of the Most Holy Eucharist from the hands of the presiding priest, a deacon or another priest.⁶⁵

66. Neither deacons nor extraordinary ministers may ever receive Holy Communion in the manner of a concelebrating priest. The practice of priests and extraordinary ministers waiting to receive Holy Communion until after the distribution of Communion to the congregation is not in accord with liturgical law.⁶⁶

67. If Communion is given under both kinds, the administration of the cup belongs to the deacon(s).⁶⁷ If there are several stations for the consecrated hosts and for the Precious Blood, it is acceptable for the deacon(s) to assist the priest(s) in distributing the consecrated hosts.

68. "The Church's custom shows that it is necessary for each person to examine himself at depth, and that anyone who is conscious of grave sin should not celebrate or receive the Body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession, except for grave reason when the possibility of confession is lacking; in this case he will remember that he is bound by the obligation of making an act of perfect contrition, which includes the intention to confess as soon as possible."⁶⁸

69. Catholic ministers licitly administer the Sacraments only to the Catholic faithful, who likewise receive them licitly only from Catholic ministers. Hence, in general non-Catholics are not admitted to Holy Communion in the Catholic Church, and Catholics are not to receive communion in churches that are not Catholic.⁶⁹

70. At Communion, the faithful are not permitted to take the host or the chalice by themselves, and still less to hand them on to one another.

The normative posture for the reception of Holy Communion in the dioceses of the United States is standing. However, communicants should not be denied Holy Communion because they kneel.⁷⁰

71. When receiving Holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence and receives the Body of the Lord from the minister. When Holy Communion is received under both kinds, the sign of reverence is also made before receiving the Precious Blood.⁷¹

72. The consecrated host may be received either on the tongue or in the hand at the discretion of each communicant.⁷² When receiving in the hand, the communicant should be guided by the words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem: "When you approach, take care not to do so with your hand stretched out and your fingers open or apart,"⁷³ but rather place one hand as a throne beneath the other, then step to one side and using the lower hand receive the host taking care that nothing is lost.

73. The Communion-plate for the Communion of the faithful should be retained, so as to avoid the danger of the sacred host or some fragment of it falling.⁷⁴

74. If Communion from the chalice is carried out by intinction, each communicant, holding a communion plate under the chin, approaches the priest who holds a vessel with the hosts, a minister standing at his side and holding the chalice. Self-intinction is not permitted and one who receives Communion by intinction may never receive in the hand. The hosts that are used must be consecrated, and it is altogether forbidden to use non-consecrated bread or other matter.⁷⁵

75. As circumstances allow, after communicants have returned to their places, they may kneel or sit while the period of sacred silence after Communion is observed.⁷⁶

76. Care must be taken that whatever may remain of the Blood of Christ after the distribution of Communion is consumed immediately and completely at the altar.⁷⁷ This function is normally reserved to the priest and deacon; however, in the Diocese of Charlotte, they may be assisted if they choose by the instituted acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who distributed the chalices.⁷⁸

77. The empty sacred vessels are purified by the priest at the altar or credence table.⁷⁹ The deacon purifies at the credence table. If purification is delayed until the dismissal of the people, they should be placed on a corporal and covered. They are to be purified immediately after the dismissal of the people.⁸⁰

78. While it is the norm for priests and/or deacons to perform the required purification of the sacred vessels following Communion, in virtue of the indult granted to the Bishops of the United States, in cases of real necessity extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may assist with this task.⁸¹ When the assistance of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion is employed, the purifications should take place at the credence table immediately after Communion or immediately following the dismissal of the people.

79. The Prayer after Communion ends the Communion rite; no announcements or other activities (including second collections) that might distract from this solemn moment should be made or take place until this prayer has been offered.⁸² If a layperson offers a reflection (e.g. a missionary appeal), it should be given after this prayer is concluded. Second collections are proper either immediately following the first collection or following the Prayer after Communion.

80. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion being sent to care for those unable to participate with the community should be sent forth from the celebration by the presiding priest. This emphasizes the connection of the reception of Holy Communion outside of Mass by the sick with the Holy Sacrifice.⁸³

Concluding Rite

81. Only the presiding priest and the deacon(s) of the Mass kiss the altar at the end of Mass.

82. When the Eucharist is reserved in the sanctuary:



CNS FILE PHOTO BY OCTAVIO DURAN

The Vatican's new document on liturgy insists that lay people delegated to assist with the distribution of Communion be referred to as "Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion" and that they be called upon when there are an insufficient number of ordinary ministers — bishops, priests or deacons — to give Communion.

* the presiding priest and ministers genuflect as they leave the sanctuary;

* those carrying incense, cross, or candles bow their heads.⁸⁴

83. Neither the Book of Gospels nor the Lectionary is carried out in the recessional.⁸⁵

1 Congregation for Divine Worship, *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 25 March 2004, 11-12.

2 Congregation for Divine Worship, *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (Third Typical Edition)*, 17 March 2003, 314; RS 130.

3 GIRM 295.

4 Cf. GIRM 117, 122, 308.

5 GIRM, 399; RS, 11-12, 59; *Notitiae* 11 (1975) 202-205; *Canon Law Digest*, Vol. VIII, pp. 78-82.

6 St. Augustine.

7 GIRM 41, 48, 111, 393. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 112ff. *Musica Sacram.*

8 GIRM 45.

9 GIRM 32.

10 GIRM 306, 307.

11 GIRM 117, 304.

12 GIRM 73, 118, 139.

13 GIRM 85.

14 RS 117.

15 GIRM 118.

16 RS 134-141.

17 GIRM 114; RS 128.

18 GIRM 119, 209; RS 123, 125.

19 GIRM, 120d.

20 GIRM 49, 274.

21 GIRM 173, 195.

22 GIRM 49.

23 GIRM 49.

24 GIRM 274.

25 GIRM 173, 195.

26 GIRM 118b, 120d.

27 GIRM 120, 172, 194.

28 GIRM 117, 122, 173, 194.

29. GIRM 51, 52. cf. *Order of Mass*

30 GIRM 53.

31 GIRM 57.

32 GIRM 309.

33 GIRM, 61.

34 GIRM 63c.

35 GIRM 66; RS 64, 65, 66.

36 GIRM 67; *Order of the Mass* 19.

37 GIRM, 71.

38 GIRM 70.

39 GIRM 71, 138.

40 GIRM 73, 140; *Redemptionis Sacramentum* 70.

41 GIRM, 141.

42 GIRM 320. The use of wheaten bread is necessary for validity; RS 48.

43 GIRM 322; RS 50.

44 GIRM 33.

45 *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, nos.105-106.

46 GIRM 145.

47 See GIRM 146.

48 GIRM 43.

49 Eucharistic Prayers 1 (Roman Canon), II (Hippolytus), III (Vatican II), and IV (St. Basil); Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation I and II; Eucharistic Prayers for Children I, II, and III.

50 GIRM 179.

51 GIRM 150.

52 GIRM, 83; *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 55.

53 GIRM 236.

54 GIRM 82.

55 GIRM 154.

56 GIRM 83.

57 GIRM 43.

58 GIRM 85.

59 Cf. GIRM 242-249.

60 GIRM 246.

61 GIRM 86, 159.

62 GIRM 162.

63 Cf. *Diocese of Charlotte Administrative Guidelines*.

64 GIRM 162.

65 GIRM 162, *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds*, 40.

66 Norms, 39, GIRM 182, 244, 246, 284.

67 GIRM 182.

68 RS 81.

69 Canon 844; RS 85.

70 GIRM 160, *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 91.

71 GIRM 160.

72 GIRM 160.

73 Norms 41.

74 GIRM 118; *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 93.

75 GIRM, 287; *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 104.

76 GIRM 43.

77 GIRM 279.

78 GIRM 284; *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, 52.

79 GIRM 163.

80 GIRM 183.

81 Indult of March 22, 2002 (Prot. 1383/01/L).

82 GIRM 166.

83 Cf. *Worship of the Holy Eucharist Outside of Mass*, nos. 13-15.

84 GIRM 274.

85 GIRM 175.

WIND VS. WALL



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Caution tape seals off the entrance to Charlotte Catholic High School March 8, the result of storms with wind gusts of 60-70 mph that lashed across Charlotte, uprooting trees, downing power lines and causing damage to the school's roof above the entrance about 7:45 a.m. A steel wall protecting cooling equipment was ripped from its foundation and left unstable, causing school officials to send students home at 11 a.m. as a safety precaution. High winds prevented a crane and workers from repairing the damage, canceling classes March 9.

Hunger for a cause



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Seventh-graders at St. Mark School in Huntersville show off pictures of children whom they will help by participating in the 30-Hour Famine for World Vision. Students fasted for 30 hours, beginning during the school day March 4, to raise awareness of the millions of people who live in poverty worldwide. Monies raised will go to World Vision, an organization that helps millions of starving and hurting children in some of the world's poorest countries.

Special skaters



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Charlotte Checkers ice hockey team assist with the floor hockey competition of the 2005 Special Olympics Southeast Region Ice Skating Competition at Charlotte Catholic Feb. 11-12. The non-skating events, such as floor hockey and Olympic Town, were held at Charlotte Catholic where 46 students volunteered to help out during the events.

St. Ann's 50th Anniversary in Charlotte

Saturday and Sunday, August 13-14, 2005



Saturday we'll celebrate from 2 pm until 10 pm with:

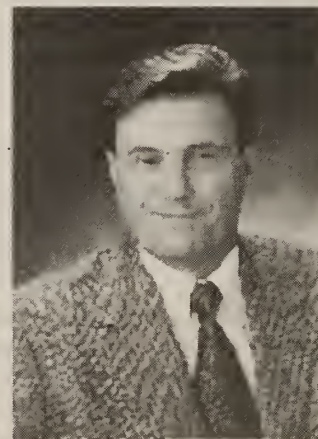
- *Special concerts *Kids' activities
- *4:30 Mass *6 pm dinner
- *7:30 pm free dance

Sunday we'll continue the celebration with:

- *Masses: 8 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm
- *8 am - 1 pm breakfast/brunch
- *"The Story of St. Ann's" videos

Plan now to come and help us celebrate our *history* and our *today*!
For information: 704-554-0553

Join us for a parenting seminar with well-known family therapist and author,
Larry Koenig



Saint Pius the Tenth Catholic Church
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Call 336-272-4681 to register and for directions!
Continuing Education Certificates also available.



IN OUR SCHOOLS

National Guardsman visits students in Winston-Salem

Capt. Almond grateful for prayers, support

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — Students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem recently met a soldier who was grateful for their support.

"Your prayers and support helped me feel confident that I would come back," revealed Capt. Mark Almond to students at St. Leo the Great School.

Almond, of the 113th Field Artillery of the N.C. National Guard, visited the school Feb. 16 with a slideshow presentation of his experiences in Iraq. An uncle of one of the students, Almond was prayed for regularly by the students and faculty, along with several other relatives serving overseas.

Almond reported to Fort Bragg for active duty Oct. 1, 2003. He was deployed to Iraq last February and stationed at Kirkush Military Training Base, about 30 miles from the Iranian border.

His mission was to train, protect and support the Iraqi National Guard to take over the security of the country.

"When I first arrived I was scared to death," he admitted to the students. "I expected something bad to happen since our training prepared us for fighting."

Although trained in combat arms, Almond is grateful that he never was required to discharge his weapon in a hostile manner while in Iraq. His only encounter with combat involved enemy fire at his vehicle.

Almond showed many pictures of Iraqi children, pointing out those of close in age to the students at St. Leo the Great School.

"The Iraqi kids loved to get their pictures taken, as they seldom have the opportunity to see themselves," he said.

"These kids are not in school. We [the soldiers] would encourage them to go to school, even though they are not required to go past the seventh or eighth grade," he

said. "They could choose to stay at home and work for their parents."

The U.S. troops have helped to build schools and medical facilities for the people of Iraq. Some of Almond's slides showed a facility that his unit helped to build.

"All you see right now on the news are violence and explosions. There are so many good news stories that aren't being told," said Almond.

He said there are 25 million people in Iraq and fewer than 2,000 of them are terrorists.

Some of the slides were of families working in a nearby brick factory. The workers' roles are well defined, according to Almond.

Mostly young boys and older girls do the loading and unloading of bricks on donkey-drawn carts, he said. Young girls lead the carts and the older boys work inside the factory putting the bricks into the kiln. The fathers typically stand guard nearby. The mothers stay in the home and cook the meals.

The wages, compared to U.S. dollars, are about \$3.50 per day for the younger children, \$4.50 per day for the older ones, and \$7.50 per day for the fathers, said Almond.

"It was very rare to see a young lady in Iraq who was not covered up, even with the temperatures well over 100 degrees," said Almond.

He recalled his hottest day in Iraq reaching 145 degrees. The females typically did not speak to the male troops, he said, although they would speak to female soldiers.

Almond expressed his gratitude for the outreach efforts that St. Leo the Great School put together in the past year for the troops.

"The items you sent helped us make friends with the Iraqi people," he said.

A "Teddy Bears for Troops" collection was organized by one determined second-grader that resulted in more than 100 bears



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Capt. Mark Almond of the N.C. National Guard thanks students of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Feb. 16 for their outreach efforts to soldiers in Iraq. Pictured are (from left): student Lucy Freiburger; Principal Georgette Schraeder; Capt. Almond; mother Jahala Almond; niece Lauren Allen; sister Loretta Allen; and student Hilary Kenney. Almond returned a plaque presented to the school last November from a colonel in the N.C. National Guard.

collected for soldiers to give to Iraqi children. A collection of snacks, movies and magazines, as well as ornaments to decorate a Christmas tree at the request of an Army chaplain, were packaged and sent to the troops last fall.

When asked about his ability to attend Mass in Iraq, Almond said he was able to attend weekly Protestant services as the chaplain was not Catholic, but that a priest did visit their camp on Easter, Thanksgiving and on a few other occasions. Almond was an extraordinary minister of holy Communion and was able to distribute the Eucharist to troops.

He also told the students that he prayed every night and always carried with him a couple of rosaries; a prayer book; a prayer card from his mother; a prayer that

his niece gave to him from Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest in Winston-Salem; and a special coin from his mentor, Col. Mabry Martin, whom the students know from a visit to the school last fall.

"Your prayers and support helped me know that you were concerned about us and cared for us," said Almond. "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please continue to pray for the troops who are there."

Almond returned a plaque presented to the school last November by Col. Mabry Martin of the N.C. National Guard. At the time the plaque was not engraved, but now reads, "From N.C. National Guard, Saint Leo the Great School, With appreciation for Outreach for Troops in Iraq Project, Fall 2004."

Warming hearts



COURTESY PHOTO BY DONNA BIRKEL

Third-grade students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem hold a few of the 111 blankets collected by students for the poor and homeless of Winston-Salem. The Salvation Army picked up the blankets Feb. 15 to distribute them as needed. Pictured are (from left) Rachel Whittemore, Nicholas Adams, Alex Ruley, Natalie Lassiter and Will Killoran.



Come and join us —
**Forgiveness Leads
to Wellness and Joy!**

St. Gabriel Parish Mission,
March 14, 15 and 16

Very Reverend Father Dennis M. Corrado, c.o., Provost of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, Brooklyn, will lead this annual event. Fr. Corrado will focus on the practice of forgiveness of one another and ourselves, and acceptance of God's forgiveness. Father Corrado has preached retreats and missions in New York, New Jersey, California, Alabama, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Florida.

Daily schedule -

11 a.m. — Mass followed by Mission presentation
(Light luncheon follows in the Ministry Center)

7 p.m. — Evening service in the Church

Babysitting by reservation is available for the evening services.
Call 704-362-5047, ext. 228 to reserve childcare.

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Dorothy Day's long-delayed biography of mentor Peter Maurin

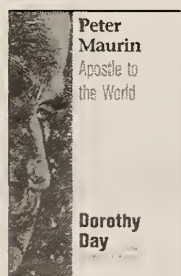
REVIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Peter Maurin: Apostle to the World" is Dorothy Day's biography of her mentor, now published decades after Day wrote it.

The Catholic Worker movement came into being through the providential 1932 meeting between Day and Maurin. Maurin was, quite literally, an answer to her prayer for help in finding a way to reconcile her compassion for the poor, her radical political instincts and the staunchly anti-communist Catholic Church she had joined at such a personal cost.

Day wrote that Maurin "made you feel a sense of his mission as soon as you met him and he aroused in you a sense of your own capacities for work (and) for accomplishment."

Day, in 2000 named a "Servant of



God," the first step in the canonization process, always insisted that it was Maurin ("holier than anyone we ever knew") who was a "saint of his day."

In 1947, at a time when Maurin's health was deteriorating, Day set out to write a full portrait of a man commonly characterized as eccentric and to flesh out the ideas behind his aphoristic "Easy Essays." (A number of these are reprinted in this book.)

Francis J. Sicius, a professor of history at St. Thomas University, has edited Day's previously unpublished manuscript and provides a well-researched, solid explanation of the personal and philosophical influences of Maurin's early life.

Sicius is particularly helpful in explaining how Day appropriated Maurin's Christian personalism, mystical body theology and Catholic social teaching in the service of her own interest in "urban charity, labor and nonviolence." Maurin's plan included the formation of laity for their own apostolate, urban houses of hospitality and the practice of the works of mercy "at a personal sacrifice," features associated with the Catholic Worker.

Less well-known was his emphasis on the Green Revolution, "farming communes for the cure of unemployment" and the Catholic European thinkers that informed his synthesis of "cult, culture, and cultivation."

Much of this synthesis was the product of his life experience. Maurin, born in 1877, was raised in a large family in the strongly communal peasant society of southern France. He "reached young adulthood at the time in France when Enlightenment sensibilities were clashing with Catho-

lic tradition over the best way to ameliorate the social convolutions of the 19th century."

The man Day met had the happiness of someone who "has found his vocation in life and has set out on the way and is sure of himself."

But Maurin's early and middle years were marked by seeming failure. At 14 he joined the Christian Brothers but left without taking final vows; later, he was active in the radical Catholic social movement Le Sillon, and eventually became disillusioned with its direction.

In 1909 he left France to homestead in Canada and spent two lonely years in the severe wilderness of Saskatchewan. That effort was followed by 14 years living "the life of a penniless vagabond who worked for little more than sustenance" as an itinerant in Canada and the United States.

Day writes, "He began to understand the humiliations of the very poor and by seeking them voluntarily he found peace and rest in them."

Day had a palpable respect for Maurin's integrity, meekness and humility. She is not totally successful in showing him as "human, sympathetic, and warm," and hers is, by far, the more vivid and attractive personality in these pages. But Day has accomplished the more difficult task of writing an eloquent meditation on poverty, the distinctive characteristic of the Catholic Worker "school for charity."

One cannot think about Peter Maurin without encountering this total poverty and it is through this, even more than his ideas and incessant lectures, that he taught what it meant to embrace the eternal in the midst of a worldly apostolate. He had no income, no superfluous possessions, turned the other cheek, accepted mockery over his frequently disheveled appearance, "ate what was put before him," and neither smoked nor drank.

The one treasure Maurin had was his acute mind, but his final years were marked by the great sadness and terrible stripping — through atherosclerosis, a form of arteriosclerosis — of even this gift. "His mind is tired," Day sadly reports. "He cannot think. ... He no longer talks, no longer teaches."

Peter Maurin died May 15, 1949, attended to and remembered by a community that continues to take seriously the demands of personal responsibility he lived with such fidelity.

The measure with which Dorothy Day measured Peter Maurin is the same by which we honor her.

"He has reached the poorest and the most destitute by living always among them, sharing their poverty, and sharing what he has with them. And this expression of love is rarer than one thinks."

Day has served her teacher well. Anyone who is grateful for her luminous Catholic life has reason to be grateful to him as well.

Linner, a librarian and writer, lives in Boston. She has a degree from Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 20, 2005

March 20, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Self-emptying service key to martyrdom

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

About this time a year ago, Mel Gibson's motion picture "The Passion of the Christ" was receiving a great deal of attention. Thousands of moviegoers viewed the film, sometimes two and three times, as a way of considering the sufferings of Christ as presented through graphic imagery.

While general reaction to the film was mixed, the experience of most Christians was a shocked realization of the horror of Christ's physical torture and a profound appreciation for the depth of his anguish.

A year later, many of us learned through the local and national news media about Sister Dorothy Stang, a 73-year-old Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who was martyred in Brazil. Like Jesus in Matthew's account of the Passion, she did not resist her attackers, nor did she allow death threats to pre-

vent her from doing the work that she believed she was sent to do.

The brutal circumstances of her death produced shock and outrage among the Christian community in Brazil and throughout the world.

Given the calamitous nature of Sister Stang's martyrdom and the dramatic circumstances of Jesus' crucifixion, it is only natural to interpret these violent deaths for the sake of the reign of God as the definition of supreme sacrifice — and so they are. However, St. Paul notes that Jesus' sacrificial giving was a process that commenced long before it culminated in the crucifixion. Likewise, Sister Stang began pouring out her life on behalf of the Amazon peoples long before her murder.

While many believers in our world today are indeed killed for their faith in Jesus, many more are spared physical martyrdom. How, then, are we to be "martyrs" — the Greek word meaning "witnesses" — for the sake of Christ?

St. Paul's epistle provides an important insight by reminding us that Jesus' entire life was characterized by self-emptying service. Each follower of Jesus, therefore, is called to engage in this same sort of activity through whatever opportunities come along, no matter how simple or small or hidden.

From allowing another driver the right of way, to changing a diaper for the hundredth time, to lightening a co-worker's burden, there are multitudes of ways to humble oneself for the sake of others and in so doing, glorify the Lord who offered his life — and his death — for our sake.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 13-19

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (St. Patrick),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (St. Cyril of Jerusalem),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20-26

Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Matthew 21:1-11, Is 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday),** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday of the Lord's Passion),** Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Saturday (Holy Saturday),** Exodus 14:15-15:1 Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-10.

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NBC-TV's 'Committed' episode defiles Eucharist

Catholic League demands 'more than an apology' from show creators

NEW YORK — The misuse and disrespect shown to the Eucharist during an episode of "Committed" has outraged Catholics nationwide.

During the Feb. 22 episode of the NBC-TV sitcom, two non-Catholics are mistakenly given holy Communion at a Catholic funeral Mass, and they try to dispose of the Eucharist and eventually drop it in a toilet.

"To say that Catholics are angry about this show would be an understatement — the outrage is visceral and intense," said William Donohue, president of Catholic League, an organization that defends the civil rights of Catholics, lay and clergy alike, to participate in American public life without defamation or discrimination.

"The complaints have come from bishops, college chaplains, pastors and the laity, and they have come from all over the country," said Donohue. "NBC has made a direct frontal assault on Roman Catholicism, choosing to mock, trivialize and ridicule the body and blood of Jesus Christ."

In the episode, two characters — one who is Jewish, one who is Protestant — do not know what to do with the Eucharist, so they make several failed attempts to get rid of it, such as slipping it into the pocket of a priest and dropping it into a tray of cheese and crackers.

The priest, who is portrayed as not knowing the difference between the Eucharist and a cracker, grabs the "cracker" but talks when he discovers it is the last one. He then changes his mind, saying, "Oh, what the hell."

According to Catholic League, the most offensive moment of the show comes

when the two non-Catholic characters accidentally flush what they think is the Eucharist down the toilet.

"What happened was deliberate," said Donohue. "According to a January 2 story in the Cincinnati Enquirer, the writers for the series ... have been encouraged by NBC executives to 'push the limits of comedy.'"

"For obvious reasons, the writers of 'Roseanne,' 'Murphy Brown' and 'Ellen' chose not to push the buttons of homosexuals or some other protected group, so they decided to play it safe and stay in good standing with their bosses by bashing Catholics," said Donohue.

"More than an apology is needed," he said. "This episode should be retired for good, and that is what we will demand."

WRITE A LETTER

The "Committed" episode that defiled the Eucharist was Episode No. 10 and aired Feb. 22, 2005. Letters can be written to the show creators and producers at their program offices and to NBC-TV at the following address:

DeAnne Heline and Eileen Heisler, producers
"Committed"
3000 Alameda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91523

NBC-TV
3000 Alameda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91523

This 'Cake' not worth eating



CNS PHOTO FROM SONY PICTURE CLASSICS

Sienna Miller and Daniel Craig star in "Layer Cake," a technically proficient but unpleasantly seamy story of a London cocaine dealer who gets caught up in the machinations of a crime kingpin and a stolen shipment of Ecstasy pills. The thriller is too complex with its difficult-to-follow plot, tricky-to-decipher accents, flashy but empty presentation, and more expletives per minute than any film in recent memory. One brief but graphic sex scene, nudity, brutal violence with attendant gore, pervasive rough and crude language, and drug use. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Michelangelo exhibit traces life of St. Peter's Basilica

BY GERARD PERSEGHIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A new exhibit at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington touches the very roots of the church, and the artists and architects whose work is on display are on the historical and artistic "A" list.

"Creating St. Peter's: Architectural Treasures of the Vatican," on exhibit through May 31, features Michelangelo's original model of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica. The 140-plus artifacts and original architectural drawings in the show include works by Renaissance masters such as Michelangelo, Bramante, Raffaello, Bernini and Fontana.

The 16-foot-tall, 13-foot-wide wooden study model of St. Peter's dome was built for Michelangelo in 1560, and it shows the inner and outer domes and how they function together. Tools used to build the basilica are also showcased, including a

wooden winch like ones used to put the obelisk in place outside the basilica.

The 98-foot tall, 331-ton Egyptian obelisk in the square is supposed to mark where St. Peter was crucified; inside St. Peter's the main altar covers the spot where he is said to be buried.

Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit, who conceived and developed the cultural center, said the exhibition offers the American public "one of the great architectural wonders. We're looking at some of (Michelangelo's) original work and how he conceived and created one of the great churches of the world."

Cardinal Maida attended a press opening along with Cardinal Francesco Marchisano, who is president of the Fabbria of St. Peter's. He oversees the physical maintenance of St. Peter's Basilica, which is visited by tens of thousands of people a day.

Cardinal Maida pointed out that the model of the dome has been "out of the Vatican only on three occasions."

When the exhibition closes, it will go back to the permanent collection in the Vatican Museums. He said the exhibition in Washington is a prelude to a Vatican celebration of the 500th anniversary of the basilica next year.

"This is a fascinating exhibition from many points of view — architecture, physics, art, history, religion, mathematics — that appeal to a wide audience, from school-children to scholars, to the casual viewer," said Msgr. William A. Kerr, executive director of the cultural center.

Schools from around the country are planning to send groups of students to Washington to see the exhibition. Seniors groups are also lining up for tours.

Cardinal Marchisano said the basilica "represents the heart of the Christian faith."

Contributing to this story was Mary Frances McCarthy.

JIM CAVIEZEL

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Archdiocese of Atlanta

St. Mary Catholic School is accepting applications for the position of elementary school principal for the 2005-2006 school year. St. Mary Catholic School is located in Rome, Georgia, which is approximately one hour northwest of Atlanta. St. Mary is a PK-8 elementary school enrolling 350 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Qualified candidates will be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's degree in educational administration (or its equivalent) and will have at least 3 years of demonstrated experience in administration. Salary and benefits are competitive.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference, and university credentials to:

**Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of Atlanta
680 W. Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30308-1984**



Director of Faith Formation

A parish steeped in the spirit of Vatican II is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The parish is moving toward family-based catechesis, e.g. Generations of Faith. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in religious education and a proven interest in family-based catechesis. Send resume as well as references to:

**Susie Barnes
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27410**

fax (336) 294-6149 or e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

Elementary School Principal Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School Charlotte, North Carolina

Applications are being accepted for the position of Principal at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School in Charlotte, NC for the 2005-2006 school year. This school has a multi-cultural focus serving grades PK-5th and is part of the Diocese of Charlotte - Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

Qualified candidates must be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's Degree in Educational Administration or a Master's Degree in Education with a focus on Curriculum plus 18 hours of Administrative coursework. The individual must be eligible for NC principal's certification. Candidates must possess excellent communications skills and have proven administrative successes. Experience in a Catholic school is desirable, preferably in a leadership position.

Applications can be secured at: www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools
Please submit a completed application and a copy of your resume to:

**Mrs. Linda L. Cherry, Superintendent
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203**

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St. Michael's Catholic Early Childhood Center (ECC) in Cary, NC is seeking an energetic Director to lead our two, three, four and five-year-old Pre Kindergarten ECC. The beloved founding Director is retiring after 21 years of serving the St Michael's ECC. Cary, North Carolina is in the heart of the sun belt and has been named by Money Magazine as "...the hottest town in the eastern U.S." and one of the safest and most desirable places to live in America. Cary is located near the renowned Research Triangle Park and the major university cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic and currently a Director or Administrator of a Pre-School with at least three years experience. Candidates that have been preparing for, and desire administrative responsibilities are also welcome to apply. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and be eligible for a North Carolina license in Early Childhood Education. Compensation will include a salary commensurate with experience and an excellent benefits package.

So if you like living under blue skies nearly year round, are seeking a Catholic parish and an environment where you can nurture and challenge, and would relish the opportunity to lead a pre-school with waiting lists for most classes then please submit your credentials to:

**ECC Director Search Committee
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
Cary, NC 27513
Or by email to: eccsearch@stmichaelscary.org**

THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIVING RESUMES IS APRIL 1, 2005.

COORDINATOR OF ADULT FORMATION

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Coordinator of Adult Formation. Qualified candidates should have a college degree in the area of religious education or related work experience. This is a part-time position with its primary focus on the coordination of our Whole Community Catechesis Program and the RCIA Process. Qualified candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a firm commitment to the Church and its teachings. He or she will be expected to participate regularly in the community and sacramental life of the parish. Position is open immediately. Please submit resume to:

**Fr. John Pagel
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
919 Haywood Road
Asheville, NC 28806**

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A way to put some new life into your stewardship efforts

BY BARBARA GADDY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE — Springtime in Savannah, Ga., is both breathtaking and energizing. Signs of new life abound all over this historic southern city.

The fourth Regional Stewardship Day Conference at the Savannah DeSoto Hilton on April 23 will be no exception. The conference, sponsored by the Charlotte, Charleston, Raleigh and Savannah dioceses and the Archdiocese of Atlanta will help bring the stewardship message alive with keynote speaker Father Dan Mahan, pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church in Batesville, Ind.

Father Mahan began serving as a parish priest in 1989. Since that time he has taken the stewardship message to three different churches at which he has pastored. Currently, as shepherd of a parish of 1,500 families, Father Mahan promotes stewardship as a spiritual way of life that draws his parishioners into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Stewardship education is a priority for Father Mahan and it is exemplified by his position as faculty member and director of formation for the Summer and Winter Institutes of the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

His talk is sure to inspire and breathe new life into our stewardship efforts.

The breakout sessions will cover a wide array of topics and provide concrete ideas for promoting stewardship in parishes.

Pastors, parishioners and committee members looking for a fresh new approach after several years of promoting parish stewardship should attend a session titled "Keeping it Alive" by Dan Loughman, director of stewardship for the Diocese of Wichita, Kan. Participants are certain to get new ideas and insights.

In addition to serving as the diocesan director of stewardship, Loughman is also a member of a vibrant parish that began promoting

stewardship more than 30 years ago.

Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte and internationally recognized speaker on stewardship, will cover the formation and responsibilities of the parish stewardship committee in his talk.

In response to many requests from small, rural parishes to address their stewardship needs, Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, will share his successful approach to stewardship.

Msgr. Patrick Bishop of Transfiguration Church in Marietta, Ga., will team with Deacon Bill Hampton of St. Matthew Church in Sharpsburg, Ga., to speak about hospitality from both large and small parish perspectives in their session.

The testimony of fellow parishioners who have embraced stewardship has the ability to change our lives. One session will have lay witness talks by Don Bray of Fayetteville and Laura Graban of Winston-Salem.

The education of children and youths is an important aspect of the total parish stewardship effort. Mimi Jurgielewicz, director of religious education at the Church of the Nativity in Charleston, S.C., will share her unique program of calling our young people to action in "Catholic Kids Guide to Stewardship."

A post-conference tour of the magnificent Cathedral of St. John the Baptist followed by Mass will bring prayerful closure to what is sure to be a busy, yet energizing, day.

It is the hope of conference planners that participants will return to their own parishes with a renewed emphasis on living and promoting stewardship as a way of life — a life of real Christian discipleship.

WANT TO GO?

For additional information on the Regional Stewardship Day, or to receive a registration brochure, contact Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

Archeologist may have found St. Paul's tomb

TOMB, from page 1

hidden for centuries, had a hole into which the faithful could stick cloth pieces to make secondary relics, said Giorgio Filippi, the archeologist and inscriptions expert at the Vatican Museums who carried out the studies.

The tomb lies directly beneath a historic inscription that reads: "Paul Apostle Martyr." The marble sarcophagus was apparently first placed there during reconstruction of the basilica in 390 AD.

"I have no doubt this is the tomb of St. Paul, as revered by Christians in the fourth century," Filippi said as he stood next to the main altar of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Filippi's discovery was the result of more than five years' archeological sleuthing. Surprisingly, the findings have not yet made a huge impression inside the Vatican or in ecclesiastical circles. The Vatican newspaper, for example, has yet to report on the discovery.

The sarcophagus lies several feet below the marble structure of the main altar, embedded in a platform of concrete. Filippi managed to reach the back side of the sarcophagus, but he said opening the tomb would be practically impossible without destroying the altar area.

He added that, in any case, it was not essential to check what's inside the sarcophagus. The important thing is that it was clearly venerated as the tomb of St. Paul, he said.

History uncovered

Tradition holds that St. Paul suffered martyrdom by beheading in the first century, and that his body was buried in a cemetery along the Via Ostiense, where the basilica was built. A first church was erected there in 320 AD, and a larger basilica was constructed in 390; it was remodeled several times over the centuries and almost totally destroyed by fire in 1823.

Pilgrims still come to St. Paul's, but not nearly as many as those who pour daily into St. Peter's Basilica, located some five miles away. On a recent weekday afternoon, no more than 75 people were inside the church.



CNS PHOTO BY JOHN THAVIS

Giorgio Filippi, an archeologist and inscriptions expert at the Vatican Museums, believes he has rediscovered the tomb of St. Paul.

Filippi began his detective work in 1993, when he studied the early Christian inscriptions in the cloister of the basilica and in the monastery nearby. He began asking questions of older monks and caretakers, trying to discover where some of the inscriptions and other artifacts came from.

He soon discovered that by lifting up certain pavement stones in the basilica's floor, a series of underground chambers and tunnels were accessible — most of them unmapped and forgotten. The excavations yielded a Roman sarcophagus and a wealth of other material.

In the year 2000, Filippi said, pilgrims coming to St. Paul's for the jubilee year asked for the burial place of the Apostle and were disappointed not to see and touch it.

Depths of research

After the jubilee ended, at the request of the basilica's papal administrator and on behalf of the Vatican Museums, Filippi made plans for a systematic study of the area under the altar. In 2002 and 2003, he examined, among other things, three vertical holes leading down to the lid of the sarcophagus.

The holes had been established many centuries earlier so that devotional items could be lowered to the tomb's surface. One reason the tomb ended up so far below the altar was that the altar area had been progressively raised due to changes that occurred through the centuries, Filippi said.

One of these holes — now closed with mortar — led inside the sarcophagus, apparently so that pieces of cloth could come into contact with relics of the saint. Filippi said the practice of creating these kinds of secondary relics was popular in the late fourth century, especially after the Emperor Theodosius banned the sale and distribution of corporal relics.

Theoretically, experts today could open the hole to the sarcophagus and stick a small video probe inside. But for now, no such examination is foreseen. Filippi said there's no hurry; as the last 11 years of work has demonstrated, he's happy to take one archeological step at a time.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

A special anniversary

'Gospel of Life' is Gospel of Christ

March 25 marks the 10th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's encyclical, "The Gospel of Life" (*"Evangelium Vitae"*). This is not just another document. It is literally a celebration. It celebrates Christ, who is personally the Gospel and the Life. It celebrates humanity, love and true freedom.

The church knows how to celebrate; the world has forgotten. The church knows how to receive and give life and love. In fact, the very meaning of life is to give and receive love (see No. 81). But the world has become too preoccupied with usefulness, efficiency and productivity (No. 22). The world is too busy with its frantic flight from all suffering and death (Nos. 64, 66-67). It flees these because it has forgotten what they mean. It sees them only as things to be avoided and controlled.

Ironically, such forgetfulness envelops the world even more in the very things it tries to escape. And in the midst of its slavery to death, the world shouts about freedom, all the while fearing it will be shackled by the one who brings true freedom — namely, Christ.

The world needs "good news," that is, "Evangelium." The document begins, "The Gospel (Evangelium) of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as good news to the people of every age and culture" (No. 1).

Life is joyful, so it is to be proclaimed (Nos. 80-82), celebrated (Nos. 83-86) and served (Nos. 87-89). The message of life is not optional, or added on to the Gospel, but is at the heart of the Gospel. "The Gospel of Life" is sim-

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



ply the Gospel of Christ, for he is life (see No. 29). The church is inescapably pro-life (No. 28) precisely because she is feminine. The church is the bride of Christ and mother of believers — and, in fact, of all humanity (No. 3).

The earth today is covered with innocent blood, which cries out from the ground to the God who made it (see Nos. 7-9, Gen. 4:2-16). But thanks be to God, there is another blood that cries out to heaven more eloquently (see No. 25, Heb. 12: 22, 24).

The cry of the blood of Christ brings mercy to those who shed the blood of their brothers and sisters. The shed blood of Christ teaches the meaning of love, which is to sacrifice oneself for the good of the other person. It reverses the dynamic of the culture of death, which sacrifices the other person for the good of oneself.

The blood of Christ, one drop of which can purify a billion worlds, gives us strength to carry out the "great campaign on behalf of life" which is called for by this encyclical (No. 95). The pro-life movement itself, in fact, is a sign of hope and victory (No. 26). The encyclical looks to the day when "death will be no more" (Rev. 21:4 see No. 105). That time is coming, and that promise is, in a nutshell, the Gospel of Life.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

Celebrating the Year of the Eucharist

There's no eucharistic church without eucharistic celebration

Our poor ailing pope proclaimed this the "Year of the Eucharist." As we get older, we realize that life has to get back to basics. In his last days as pope he is calling the church to get back to basics.

The Eucharist is at the heart of Catholic spirituality.

Whenever I have been angry or disappointed in the church, it is the Eucharist that keeps me inside her embrace. It is the mystical presence of Christ. It draws us together in worship. It defines us as a people; it makes us "church." It also gives us strength. Food for the journey, both personally and as a community of faith.

Our church is based on what the Lord has given to us, namely himself. We do what he has handed on to us, as St. Paul says in the first letter to the Corinthians.

In the sixth chapter of John, Jesus told his followers that unless we join ourselves to him completely, that is "eat my flesh and drink my blood," we would not have life within us.

What is true for us as individuals is true for the church. If we do not have the Eucharist, the church has no life. At least not as a Catholic Church.

Our parish, like many others, is trying to refocus on the Eucharist this year. As usual, it is the parishioners who have taught me and been the most creative in our devotion.

At the entrance to the church we have a banner proclaiming the "Year of the Eucharist" made by two women in our parish who are great seamstresses.

At Christmas, we gave out 500 copies of the pope's letter proclaiming this year and meditating on the role of the Eucharist in our church.

Each Sunday, we entrust a different family with a "traveling chalice" to carry to their home. They are supposed to put it in a prominent place where they eat their evening meal (but not atop the television set). Each night for a week they pray for more vocations to the priest-

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



hood and the religious life and lay ministry. This is to make a connection between our eucharistic worship and the priesthood.

If there is no one to celebrate the Eucharist, there will be no eucharistic church. The families seem to like coming forward, and it makes the work of vocations a family matter.

For several years now we have had eucharistic adoration three days per week. This year we began Lent with a week of perpetual adoration. More than 370 parishioners came to the church to pray in the first week of Lent. I think that will be an enormous source of grace and blessing to us.

In June we are making plans for a Corpus Christi procession. We have the parade permit to go around the center of our little town, past the courthouse and post office and bank and shopping center. This procession does, metaphorically, what each one of us should do each Sunday. It takes the presence of Christ that we have received in the Eucharist out into our secular world. It makes the whole world a sanctuary, a holy place.

In the bulletin each week we print quotes from the pope or church fathers on the importance of the Eucharist.

Each of these things is only a step, a way of renewing our devotion to the presence of the Lord, a way of calling our spiritual life back to the basics. The pope, even in his infirmity, has reminded us who stands at the heart of things: Christ.

Eliminating charitable deductions

Regarding Father Frank Pavone's column "Free speech in church" (March 4), I heartily agree that freedom of speech in homilies is essential and changes in the law that would allow greater freedom would be desirable.

A change in the law that Father Pavone doesn't consider is eliminating the charitable deduction in its entirety. This would allow complete freedom without any consideration of government restrictions.

As an alternative, the church could

Letters to the Editor

simply refuse to take the charitable deduction. The freedom attained from not accepting "Caesar's coin" (including tax deductions for donations) is tremendous. Charity may then be given where the need is perceived to be without any concern about government control or regulations.

I believe that the law allowing deduction of charitable donations from

taxes is one of the most severe restrictions to charitable giving in this country. To receive a deduction a person must find an organization that approximates his or her charitable values and donate there.

This precludes making donations personally even though the need may be great.

Several years ago my wife and I decided to make donations without regard to deductibility and have found it very freeing. We now assist individuals or families and many of our donations go directly to their needs. The additional funds that could be available by claiming this deduction are offset by the lack of administrative costs of organized charities. Needs can also be addressed imme-

diately without the delays inherent in any organization.

— Roger Kenney

Voices that matter

In response to Karen Dietlein's column "Your impossible dreams" (Feb. 11), this is a very good article about the many voices that bombard us every day.

Let every one of us remember that our own minds speak both negative and positive words and thoughts to us along with the outside voices.

God also has something to say to us. Let us hear his voice.

— Jack Renkenberger
Waxhaw, N.C.

Toxic thinking

Jesus is exterminator of evil thoughts

A recent column of mine received a lot of positive mail. (I get about 6,000 hits a month on my Web site: www.messengerofjoy.com). The column was titled "How to Be Your Own Best Friend," and the essential point was this: To be your own best friend, you must first disidentify with your own thoughts.

You have to be clear on this: You are not your thoughts; rather, you are the observer of your thoughts. This means that you have control over what you allow to come and go in your thinking process.

More than that, it means you are responsible for your own happiness. Every human being has the power to choose a happy mind-set. To wallow in the swamp of toxic thinking is to suffer needless anxiety. Jesus said, "Be not anxious."

Everything that enters your stream of consciousness is not from God. Too many good people live in a prison of self-imposed mental anguish, allowing themselves to feel they are doomed by the past.

Nonsense! God is pure mercy and forgiveness. No matter what happened in your life, his love never changes. You are under his blessed shelter, and he is always there to minister to you.

The human mind is like a living room. Some of your thoughts are like rats and mice that sneak in and take over, soiling your new rug. Get rid of those unwelcome rodents; exterminate them. Do not identify with your troubling thoughts. If you can't

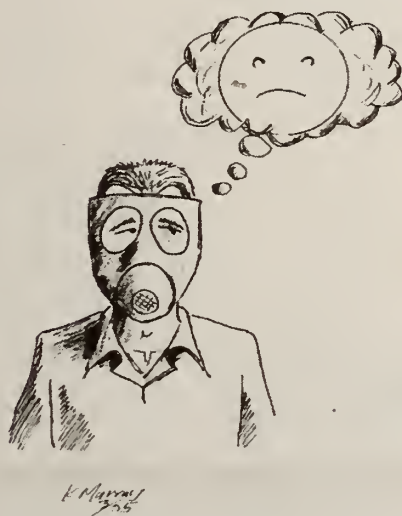
Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



do this by yourself, call on Jesus, the great exterminator of evil thoughts.

Wallowing in hurtful memories only intensifies and perpetuates a bad habit. Don't let the past drag you down. Break



free from all this emotional pain through prayer and will power. Live in the present moment, not in your own head.

The brain only has room for one set of thoughts at a time. You can replace poisonous thinking with good thoughts in the here-and-now.

Smell the roses, feel the consolation of warm water on your hands, go for a walk, breath in the fresh air. Remember, whenever you look at a beautiful sunset, it is God's way of telling you how much he loves you.

Thoughts of suicide, remorse over some terrible failure or feelings of fear and suspicion can bring with them an overwhelming sense of insecurity. These can all be washed away in the pure waters of God's love. Put yourself in his loving presence more, and trust in his mercy when you feel under attack.

Bad habits are hard to break, but don't be discouraged. There is always grace. All will be well once you begin to believe that you are solely responsible for your thoughts and actions.

Blame no one else for your present state. If you have suffered a great reversal or humiliation, do not blame your parents, your superiors, your upbringing or your environment. Realize that you made your own choices. Face up to the truth, and make those tough decisions with courage.

Pray with confidence: "Dear Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, protect me and comfort me in this present moment. Cleanse me of my toxic thoughts, and give me peace."

Everyone can adopt a happier frame of mind.

Jesus said, "I have told you all these things that your joy may be full" (Jn 15:11).

The paths to life and damnation

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. In the Gospel of Matthew (7:13-14), Jesus claims the road to damnation is wide and clear, and many choose to travel it. The gate leading to life is narrow, and few there are who find it. Does this not indicate that most of the human race will be condemned to hell? (Arizona)

A. First, other places in Matthew (e.g. 8:11) speak of "many" being saved, which hints that in this passage Jesus may not be giving statistics about the population of hell.

The reference to "doors" in the passage you quote at the end of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew is hortatory, to remind disciples who may be lagging in their Christian journey that this journey requires discipline and perseverance. It is not informational, telling us how many are to be saved.

A helpful hint is contained in Luke's passage parallel to this one of Matthew, in which someone asks, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (Lk 13:23)

Jesus simply ignores the question and stresses the need to try to enter the narrow gate.

As in other similar circumstances, Jesus is never interested in satisfying our nosiness by answering curiosity questions that have nothing to do with our holiness and relationship with him and the Father. So it is with the passage you quote. Jesus is not making a declaration about hell, but exhorting his followers to stay awake and disciplined on the path to life, which requires fresh determination and decision every day.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, Ill., 61612, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

The spirit of Vatican II

Young Catholic adults often haven't heard of Second Vatican Council

"Fifty-seven percent of young Catholic adults have never heard of Vatican II."

That was one of many startling findings reported at a Feb. 18 meeting of church researchers from the Life Cycle Institute at The Catholic University of America in Washington and Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.

When I heard this, my thoughts went back to a biblical text I had just read. It was about the Egyptians, who no longer had any memory of Joseph. Not knowing Joseph, they no longer respected his descendants, the Hebrews.

That simple narrative contains several lessons. One lesson is that time moves on; nothing lasts forever. New generations tend to focus primarily on the present and to have their own agendas.

Another lesson is that if someone or some institution isn't preserving the memory of past generations, new generations are deprived of vital roots. The new generations are, in a sense, orphaned.

The Second Vatican Council cared very much about upcoming generations. Its love for the liturgy and the spiritual strength the liturgy generates, espe-

cially in young people, encouraged it to take significant steps in the direction of renewal.

No doubt some of us remember "Black Masses" — daily Masses in which the priest, facing the altar, recited prayers in Latin for the dead. Never once did we hear a homily on the Gospel.

Although these Masses allowed us quietly to melt into our own prayer corner, they did little to inspire us to cherish the awesome mysteries we were celebrating. Active participation was minimal, depriving us of true community spirit.

Oh, we were a community and actually felt like one, but it was a community that was hierarchically top heavy and vertical in its approach, lacking that sense that there is a horizontal dimension of the church through which we are linked with others around us in the congregation and deriving a wholesome richness from being one with others like us.

Vatican II generated a spirit that said to the laity: "You are church, you are the people of God. You are just as responsible for the church as are the hierarchy. Become an active participant

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



in the church and the liturgy, and help to bring the church's spiritual beauty to the surface."

Vatican II spoke to the modern world and its people, saying in effect: "We don't despise you. Rather, we are here to collaborate with you in making our world as God intended it to be. Science and technology are essentially good and can serve as ways to make our life reflect God's life."

In embracing the modern world, Vatican II moved away from isolation and embraced the spirit of partnership, showing us the way to generate greater unity among Christians.

These are but a few examples of the spirit of Vatican II that young Catholic adults need to "catch" in order to better appreciate the richness of their religious heritage. Thanks to Vatican II, today's Catholics have a new, improved Christian world vision like none before.

One hopes the finding that 57 percent of young Catholic adults never heard of Vatican II will be a wakeup call that motivates us to find more effective ways to root them in their Catholic tradition.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic life thrives in central Mecklenburg County at St. Gabriel Church



St. Gabriel Church, located in central Mecklenburg County, has served many of Charlotte's Catholics since 1957.

CHARLOTTE — Over the course of four decades, the St. Gabriel Church community grew from 175 families to become the largest parish in the Carolinas, with 4,100 families attending Mass on a weekly basis in 1998.

Since the establishment of St. Matthew Church in 1986, St. Gabriel has lost a few hundred households to the southeast Charlotte church. However, St. Gabriel remains a thriving, active parish in what is now a central part of Mecklenburg County.

In 1955, 12 acres of land — then located one mile from Charlotte's southeastern city limits — were purchased by Bishop Vincent S. Waters, then-bishop

of Raleigh, to establish a new parish. A 250-seat chapel was built, and Father Paul Byron, St. Gabriel Church's founding pastor, celebrated the first Mass in the church in September 1957, thereby beginning a pastorate highlighted by significant growth and change.

Bishop Waters dedicated and blessed the Diocese of Raleigh's newest church in November 1957, placing the church under the patronage of the Archangel Gabriel.

Under Father Byron's direction, a kindergarten was begun in 1958, followed in 1960 by a grade school staffed by Sisters of Mercy from Belmont. The school opened with 150 students; within

ST. GABRIEL CHURCH

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Charlotte, N.C. 28211
(704) 364-5431

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Pastor: Father Edward J. Sheridan

Parochial Vicar: Father Robert R. Conway

Permanent Deacons: Deacon Ben W. Wenning, Deacon Robert Gettelfinger

Number of Households: 3,400

a few years, the enrollment had climbed to 350, and a two-story gymnasium and cafeteria were built.

By the mid-1960s, parish membership included more than 500 families. Msgr. Michael J. O'Keefe, pastor, directed a major parish renovation when in 1970-71 he began an expansion project that would accommodate more parishioners at the increasingly crowded weekend Masses. When groundbreaking ceremonies took place in 1973 — a year after the founding of the Diocese of Charlotte — St. Gabriel Church was already North Carolina's largest parish, with a registered count of 690 families.

During the mid- to late-1970s, parish membership continued to grow quickly and steadily, matching the city's population growth. Membership included more than 1,000 families in 1977 when Msgr. Hugh Dolan, pastor, introduced expansion ideas that led to implementation of a master plan. That plan — developed over a number of years — consisted of parish surveys, parishioner input, committee meetings and finally, expansion and building designs that included improvements to the church, school and administrative and recreational facilities.

A fund-raising campaign was begun in 1983 during the pastorate of Msgr. Thomas Walsh, which led to the pur-

chase of additional property at Providence Road and Sharon Lane. Construction of a new 1,100-seat church ensued in 1985.

In September 1986, Bishop John F. Donoghue, along with Bishop emeritus Michael J. Begley, and present and former pastors of St. Gabriel Church dedicated the facility, which included a daily chapel, fellowship hall, meditation chapel, family room and music room.

Expansion continued through the 1990s, both in the number of registered families and physical growth. In May 1990, Father Edward Sheridan, pastor, began an extensive capital campaign. The result was a 79,000 square-foot parish center, which Bishop Donoghue dedicated in December 1992. The building became the new home for the school, the faith development center offices, a gymnasium and cafeteria.

In 1997, plans were put in place to construct a three-story ministry center to house the parish faith formation offices, meeting space, nursery and ministry offices. Ministry outreach highlights parish life at St. Gabriel Church, with more than 100 ministerial opportunities, including groups such as the disability ministry and health care ministry joining a host of other teams addressing specific and common needs of St. Gabriel's parishioners.

In May 2002, Msgr. Richard Bellow, then-pastor of St. Gabriel Church, dedicated a 280-niche columbarium on the grounds of the church.

In January 2004, Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated an expanded eucharistic adoration chapel at the church. St. Gabriel Church and Maryfield Chapel in High Point offer the only perpetual adoration of the Eucharist in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In July 2004, Father Sheridan returned to St. Gabriel Church once again to shepherd the parish he had served as pastor from 1989-98.

For nearly half a century, St. Gabriel Church has ministered to the spiritual needs of many of Charlotte's Catholic families, who then reach out to help their neighbors in need.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Were you married in the Catholic Church to a non-Catholic? If you are raising your children Catholic in an interfaith marriage and would like to share your story in an upcoming issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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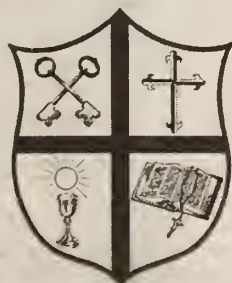
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Pope stresses importance of
confession; Mystery of the
Mass, Part 11

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MARCH 18, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 24

In comes the green



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above, Irish dancers from Rince na h'Eireann School of Traditional Irish Dance make their way past St. Peter Church as part of the ninth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 12. Below, Zachary Martin, 11, of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, enjoys the parade while dressed as a leprechaun.

St. Pat parade marches through uptown Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Diocese of Charlotte schools and other local Catholic organizations were among the 95 groups that marched in the ninth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 12.

This year's morning parade, the largest ever, which ran along Tryon Street and was viewed by an estimated 30,000 people, was followed by a free community festival that ran until 10 p.m. The festival, which also grows bigger each year, featured live entertainment.

St. Patrick's Day actually falls on March 17, but Charlotte events traditionally take place on the Saturday before the 17th.

MORE COVERAGE ON PAGES 8-9.



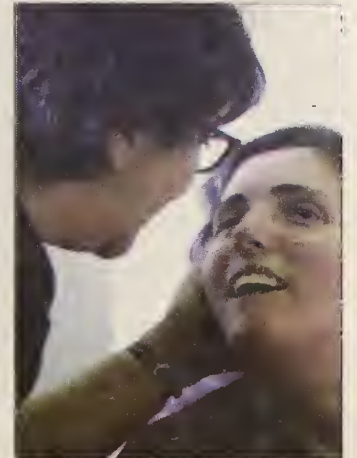
FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Cardinal joins with Florida bishops in statement on Schiavo case

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities joined with the Florida bishops March 9 in calling for the continuation of any medical treatment or care that could benefit Terri Schindler Schiavo, the brain-damaged Florida woman who has been at the center of a legal battle over removal of the feeding tube that is keeping her alive.

The statement from Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore came nine days before the court-imposed deadline for



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Terri Schindler Schiavo is shown here with her mother, Mary Schindler, in a photo taken in late 2001.

See SCHIAVO, page 5

Catholics fight push by states for embryonic stem-cell research

NEUROSCIENTIST
DESCRIBES RESEARCH
HOPES AS 'FAIRY TALE'

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Like many other states, Massachu-

setts is considering legislation that would promote embryonic stem-cell research, prohibit human reproductive cloning, and set rules for informed consent and ethical review of any such research.

See STEM CELLS, page 6

Toward the priesthood

Seminarians to be ordained as transitional deacons

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Two seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte will soon be ordained as transitional deacons.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will ordain James Stuhrenberg and Alejandro Ayala to the

transitional diaconate at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Penn. April 3.

The transitional diaconate is the final step before ordination to the priesthood. Seminarians serve one year as transitional deacons before

See DEACONS, page 4

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Culture Watch

Years of meetings help pope
with book; venerating relics
of Christ's Passion

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In Our Schools

Winning basketball teams;
students put minds to
successful results

| PAGES 12-13

Parish Profile

St. William Church serves
western N.C. Catholics for
five decades

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

A SHEPHERD SPEAKS



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is filmed walking with WBTV News anchor Maureen O'Boyle outside St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. The interview was part of an upcoming half-hour special on the bishop and the growth of the diocese.

Bishop Jugis subject of television documentary

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — A television station video crew showed up at several Masses celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis over the past few weeks.

WBTV News of Charlotte will use the footage in a half-hour documentary on the bishop that will air on Easter Sunday and the following day.

The program, "Maureen O'Boyle and Bishop Peter Jugis," will include an extensive interview with the bishop by O'Boyle, a news anchor at the station.

O'Boyle is familiar to viewers from her role as anchor of the syndicated programs "A Current Affair" and "Extra" during the 1990s. She is a Charlotte native whose daughter attends a Catholic school.

Although Bishop Jugis is regularly quoted in the pages of *The Catholic News & Herald* and has been interviewed by secular newspapers in the diocese, this is his first extensive television interview.

The interview took place at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Among other topics, O'Boyle asked the bishop about the growth of the Catholic Church and the influence of Hispanics who have moved into the diocese during the last decade.

No subject was off limits and O'Boyle asked the bishop about the national sexual abuse scandal involving clergy as well as his pastoral statement, "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion." The document says that Catholic politicians who persistently support

abortion may not be admitted to holy Communion in the diocese.

Bishop Jugis also addressed the current controversy over the placement of Ten Commandment monuments on state-owned property and the differences between Catholic and public schools. In addition, he answered questions about his background as a Charlotte native and how growing up Catholic in North Carolina at a time when Catholics made up less than one-half of one percent of the population influences his ministry as bishop.

"We felt it was important for a religious leader and a community leader to be heard and we are interested in doing those sorts of programs," said Ron Bilek, executive editor of WBTV News.

Bilek said that television is a great medium that lets a large audience get to know someone.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT TO WATCH?

"Maureen O'Boyle and Bishop Peter Jugis" airs on WBTV News at 12 p.m. on Easter Sunday, March 27, and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 28.

Since WBTV's programs cannot be seen in all parts of the Diocese of Charlotte, the diocesan Office of Communications is investigating the possibility of making DVD copies of the program with Bishop Jugis available. Look for more information in an upcoming edition of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

Dominican activist released from jail; she refuses to pay restitution

POULSBORO, Wash. (CNS) — Undeterred by more than two years in prison, Dominican Sister Jackie Hudson returned home March 6 determined to continue her peace activism while refusing to pay restitution money to the federal government because she said it would be spent on violent means.

Sister Hudson and two other Dominican sisters were ordered to pay \$3,080 for cutting through a 32-foot section of fence on Oct. 6, 2002, to gain access to a Minuteman III missile silo site in northern Colorado as part of an anti-nuclear weapons protest.

They hammered on the silo cover and the adjoining tracks, and poured their own blood in the form of a cross, before they were arrested. They were later convicted on sabotage charges and sentenced to 30 to 40 months in prison.

Sister Hudson, 70, served 26

months of her 30-month sentence, receiving time off for good behavior.

After being welcomed at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport by a small group of supporters, she told reporters she would not pay her part of the \$3,080.

"When that money would go to increase the number of nuclear weapons at Bangor" in Washington state, she said, or "to increase the violence in Afghanistan or Iraq, I cannot possibly do that. My own conscience will not allow that."

She added that the other two women religious share her resolve.

In lieu of paying monetary restitution, Sister Hudson asked supporters to offer "alternative restitution" to the government in the form of volunteering with social services. So far, \$150,000 worth of services has been donated by supporters around the world, she said.

Diocesan planner

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

BISCOE — The groundbreaking for the new Our Lady of the Americas Church will be April 9 at 1 p.m. on Farmers Market Road off Route 211 in Candor just east of Interstate 73/74 (Hwy 220). Bishop Peter J. Jugis will preside at the groundbreaking. Following the ceremony there will be food and pageantry followed by a bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving at 4 p.m. For details, call the church office at (910) 428-3051.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnnet.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 3 with a Holy Hour at 9 p.m. including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information, call Paul Deer at (704) 948-0628.

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Cen-

ter of the Carolinas will host a *Blood Drive* at the Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., April 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good health. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Vanessa Garcia at (704) 370-3357 or visit www.ncdonor.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap* will meet at Pepperoni's Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center, 4267 Park Rd; Tuesdays in April, at 6:30 p.m. The theme for the sessions will be "Uncorking the Truth About God, Sex, and the Sanctity of Life" and will feature Father Timothy Reid, Cindy Brown, Dr. Matt Harrison and Abbott Placid Solari as speakers. For more information, contact Catrina Conway at (704) 632-8620.

CHARLOTTE — Al Barbarino and Father Gio Belanich, director of Croatian Relief Services, will visit St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., April 10. A *free concert, healing service with the Blessed Sacrament, adoration and Benediction* will be offered following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumpston Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

With formality or familiarity, tens of thousands e-mail pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the greatest formality or the most relaxed familiarity, tens of thousands of people sent e-mail messages to Pope John Paul II.

They offered prayers for the pope's health, expressed hope that he would be released soon from Rome's Gemelli hospital — which he was — but also asked to be remembered in his prayers.

The pope was hospitalized Feb. 24 and underwent a tracheotomy to help ease breathing difficulties; he returned to the Vatican March 13.

The Vatican Secretariat of State reported that between March 1-10, more than 43,500 e-mail messages had been sent to the pope's six electronic addresses.

They begin "Your Holiness," or "My very, very dear John Paul II," "Esteemed Holy Father," or simply "Hola" (Hello).

With no dedicated address for Polish writers, the Vatican said it is impossible to give an accurate count of messages from the 84-year-old pope's compatriots; their messages are scattered throughout the six inboxes.

The messages are distributed to the appropriate language desk in the Vatican Secretariat of State. Each one is read, a summary is prepared for the pope and sample messages are printed for him.

The e-mail messages come from individuals, families and groups, including ones from a seminary in South Africa, a retreat center in Ireland and the staff of a parish in Mexico.

A woman from the Archdiocese of Atlanta wrote, "I know that you are going through many struggles, but you are an amazing man and God has surely given you the grace to carry on the good fight."

Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap* will meet April 6, 13, 20 and 27 at Coopers Ale House 5340 West Market St. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — St. Mary Church 22 Bartlett St., will observe *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 3, 3-4 p.m., with

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, communal prayer and song followed by a reception at St. Mary's Rectory next door. Come celebrate with us the great mystery of His Divine Mercy. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., invites all Catholics who have been inactive, feel alienated or want to take another look at the Catholic Church to attend a series of sessions designed to address issues that have perhaps caused a feeling of estrangement. *Re-Membering Church* will meet Wednesdays, April 20 through May 25, at following the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican official says displaced Africans, refugees need more help

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Facing hunger, rape and death, refugees and displaced people in Sudan's Darfur region and throughout Africa must be given greater assistance by the international community, a Vatican official said.

"The precarious and tragic condition of these millions of persons forcibly uprooted from their villages and their lands calls for concrete and prompt decisions," Msgr. Fortunatus Nwachukwu told the executive committee of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Msgr. Nwachukwu, a staff member at the Vatican's observer mission to U.N. agencies in Geneva, spoke to the committee March 10.

On March 11, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the U.N. Security Council that the Sudanese government and rebels had not made any serious attempt in the past month to resolve the Darfur conflict.

The government, Annan said, has not stopped Arab-led militias from attacking civilians, nor has it made progress to stop human rights abuses in the region.

The secretary-general also criticized rebels for harassing relief workers and for firing on relief-agency helicopters deliver-

ing food and other emergency supplies.

The United Nations estimates that more than 1.8 million people are internally displaced in Darfur or are living across the border in refugee camps in Chad.

In his speech to the U.N. refugee agency, Msgr. Nwachukwu said progress made last year in assisting refugees around the world "is clouded now by insufficient funding and by the worsening of violence and ill-treatment of the displaced population of Darfur, where the humanitarian situation is critical."

The attacks on civilians are "brutal and violent, and human rights violations are a daily occurrence. Particularly vulnerable are women subjected to rape and other forms of degradation," he said.

Msgr. Nwachukwu said the situation calls for stronger leadership on the part of the United Nations and the designation of one agency to coordinate the work of all the nongovernmental agencies trying to assist the refugees and displaced people.

"This involvement in protection and human rights issues will require larger human and financial resources and, above all, the political will to act" to intervene and to disarm the aggressors, he said.

Joint efforts



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

German Cardinal Walter Kasper greets Rabbi Leon Klenicki at the start of a program on the theological dimensions of Catholic-Jewish relations March 13 at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Cardinal Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, gave the opening talk of a three-day discussion marking the 40th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council document that reshaped Catholic attitudes toward Jews and Judaism.

California Catholic Conference wants same-sex ruling overturned

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — The executive director of the California Catholic Conference has expressed hope that the California Supreme Court will overturn a lower court ruling permitting same-sex marriages in the state.

The ruling, which declares that state law banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, violates sacred church traditions and a fundamental aspect of civil society, said Ned Dolejsi, executive

director of the conference, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops.

The ruling was made March 14 by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer, who said that the current situation of denying marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples is discriminatory.

"Simply put, same-sex marriage cannot be prohibited solely because California has always done so before," said the ruling.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 20 — 11 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 22 — 11 a.m. Chrism Mass
Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 24 — 7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 25 — 7:30 p.m. Celebration
of the Lord's Passion
Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 26 — 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 27 — 11 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass
Saint Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Knightly voices



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are members of the new choir of the Knights of Columbus Council 10389 at Holy Spirit Church in Denver. The choir received many compliments on their vocal talents after the Saturday, Feb. 12, Mass and were asked by Father Joseph Ayathupadam, pastor, to sing again at the Sunday, Feb. 13, Mass. The choir is now scheduled to sing during both the Saturday vigil and Palm Sunday Masses, March 19-20. The choir consists of Mark Brannan, Bob Zollo, Kurth Dohmann, Gordy Hirshman, Bob Ladousier, Sal Romolo, Steve Beatty, Tony Brunner, Pete Ferrara and Don Richmond. Deacon Richard Kauth, permanent deacon at Holy Spirit Church, conceived the idea of the Knights choir at the church.

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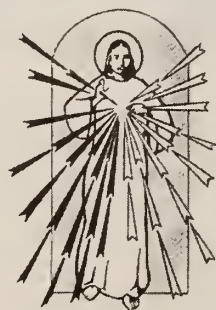
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Sunday, April 3 - 8am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Spanish)



Procession and Enthronement of Divine Mercy Image - immediately following 12:30pm Spanish Mass

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - 1:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation - 1:30 to 3pm

Pro-Life Rosary - 2pm

Recitation of The Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3pm

Benediction - 3:30pm

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For more information about Divine Mercy, log on to thedivinemercy.org.

Seminarians to be ordained to diaconate

DEACONS, from page 1

they are eligible be ordained as priests.

Stuhrenberg, son of Maurice and Virginia Stuhrenberg of Charlotte, is a third-year seminarian at Blessed Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Stuhrenberg was born in Long Beach, N.C. He attended Charlotte Catholic High School and graduated from South Mecklenburg High School. He attended North Carolina State University and graduated from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in 1987.

Prior to entering the seminary, Stuhrenberg was employed as an electrical engineer for the Department of the Navy.

A parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, Stuhrenberg

served his most recent pastoral internship with St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

Ayala is a third-year seminarian at St. Vincent Seminary. The son of the late Horacio G. Ayala and Elena-B. Pena, he was born in Ledesma, Argentina.

Ayala attended Catholic schools and studied law at St. Thomas Aquinas University in Tuc, Argentina. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Vincent Seminary.

Prior to entering the seminary, Ayala was employed at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, where he is a parishioner.

Ayala served his most recent pastoral internship with St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org

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Cardinal joins fight for Schiavo's life

SCHIAVO, from page 1

the woman to be taken off the tube.

Michael Schiavo — who remains legally married to Terri Schiavo but now has two children with another woman — says his wife would want the feeding tube removed. Her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, say their daughter would want to live, in part because of her Catholic beliefs.

The cardinal said he, like the Florida bishops, prayed "that those who hold power over Terri Schindler Schiavo's fate will see that she 'continues to receive nourishment, comfort and loving care.'"

Cardinal Keeler quoted from Pope John Paul II's 2004 talk to a conference in Rome, in which the pope said even patients in a persistent vegetative state have "the right to basic health care (nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, warmth, etc.)."

The pope said it is "morally obligatory" to provide water and food, even by artificial means, "insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality, which in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of his suffering."

The cardinal said "there are times when even such basic means may cease to be morally obligatory because they have become useless or unduly burdensome for the patient."

"Deliberately to remove them in order to hasten a patient's death, however, would be a form of euthanasia, which is gravely wrong," he added.

Pinellas County Circuit Court Judge George Greer ruled Feb. 25 that Michael Schiavo could order doctors to remove

the feeding tube at 1 p.m. March 18.

In January, the U.S. Supreme Court refused without comment to review a lower court decision overturning the Florida law that allowed Gov. Jeb Bush to order reinsertion of the woman's feeding tube when it was removed for six days in 2003.

Terri Schiavo, 41, has been impaired for the past 15 years. She can breathe on her own but requires nutrition and hydration through a feeding tube.

A resident of a nursing home in Pinellas Park, she has been receiving food and water through a feeding tube since 1990, when she collapsed at her home in St. Petersburg because of what doctors believe was a potassium imbalance. Her brain was deprived of oxygen for several minutes.



CNS PHOTO BY ED FOSTER JR.

Franciscan Brother Conrad Richardson leads intercessory prayers during a rally for Terri Schindler Schiavo March 12 across from the hospice where the 41-year-old woman resides in Pinellas Park, Fla. More than 200 people gathered to pray and speak out against the removal of Schiavo's feeding tube, which was scheduled under court order for March 18.

Vatican bioethicist says removing tube is 'direct euthanasia'

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Removing the feeding tube from Terri Schindler Schiavo or other patients in a similar condition amounts to "direct euthanasia," a "cruel way of killing someone," said the Vatican's top bioethicist.

Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said the academy usually does not comment on specific cases before courts, but "silence in this case could be interpreted as approval."

The bishop said March 11 that withdrawing Schiavo's gastric tube would not be a matter of allowing her to die, but would "inflict death."

Judge George Greer of Florida's Pinellas County Circuit Court ruled Feb. 25 that Michael Schiavo, Terri Schiavo's husband, could order doctors to remove the feeding tube March 18.

Her parents have opposed their son-in-law's efforts.

Bishop Sgreccia spoke to Vatican Radio the day after Greer ruled the state's Department of Children and Families could not intervene in the process.

Bishop Sgreccia told Vatican Radio, "Terri Schiavo must be considered a living human person, deprived of full consciousness, whose juridical rights must be recognized, respected and defended.

"The removal of the gastric tube used for nourishing her cannot be considered an 'extraordinary' measure or a therapeutic measure," he said. "It is an essential part of the way in which Mrs. Terri

Schiavo is nourished and hydrated."

"As far as we are concerned, denying someone access to food and water is a cruel way of killing someone," he said.

"Taking into account only medical and anthropological considerations," he said, "we feel an obligation to affirm that such a decision violates the rights of Terri Schiavo and, therefore, constitutes an abuse of judicial authority."

Bishop Sgreccia said he also was concerned about the precedent the court's decision could set in the United States, creating a situation in which euthanasia is seen "as a right."

Bishop Sgreccia said the Catholic Church does not support keeping people alive at all costs, going to extraordinary and even painful means to postpone death.

However, he said, keeping a patient clean, warm, fed and hydrated is not the same thing as "therapeutic obstinacy" or the refusal to accept death.

Feeding and hydration are "signs of respect for the human person," whether young or old, healthy or sick, he said.

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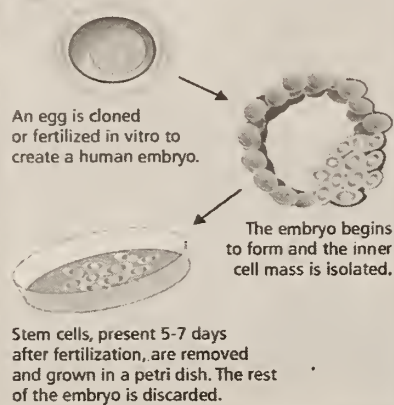
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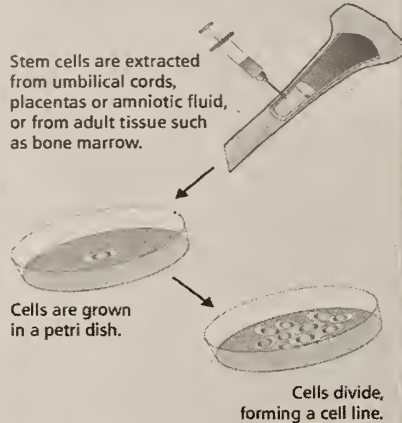
CREATING STEM-CELL LINES

Scientists believe stem cells could repair diseased or injured tissues. The Catholic Church opposes stem-cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

FROM HUMAN EMBRYO



FROM ADULT TISSUE



Cells are manipulated to create specific human tissue such as nerve cells, muscle cells or blood cells.

© 2005 CNS Graphics

Catholics fight embryonic stem-cell research

STEM CELLS, from page 1

"Our research community stands on the threshold of great advances in the fight against disabling childhood and degenerative diseases, but has been held back by cloudy legal policy on stem-cell research," said Senate President Robert Travaglini in introducing the legislation.

"Massachusetts must act now to maintain its prominence in the industry," he said.

"The issue of stem-cell research is one that has drawn interest because of the hope it offers to those suffering physical illness or injury," said Maggi Nadol, director of the Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Charlotte, in response to the legislation.

"However, we must draw the distinction between embryonic stem cells, which require the sacrifice of a human being, and adult stem cells, which may be obtained in an ethical manner," she said.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, a neuroscientist who is director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, sees the rush to get in on embryonic stem-cell research as part of a "modern secular fairy tale."

People want to believe that science can "push back the frontiers of death itself," the priest said in an interview. But the hopes of those promoting embryonic stem-cell research are "much bigger than what's supported by science," he added.

States' responses to the debate over embryonic stem-cell research range from that of California, where voters in November approved an initiative mandating \$3 billion in state spending on embryonic stem-cell research, to South Dakota, which bans all research that destroys a human embryo, unless the research was intended to preserve the life and health of that embryo.

A group in Florida is collecting signatures to amend the state constitution to permit such research, while New Jersey political leaders have already given \$11.5 million to the state's new stem-cell institute and proposed spending another \$500 mil-

lion over the next 10 years.

"We believe it is more important than ever to stand for the principle that government must not treat any living human being as research material, as a mere means to benefit others," said the Catholic bishops of New Jersey after acting Gov. Richard J. Codey proposed funding the stem-cell institute with \$200 million in unspent bond money and asking voters to approve the additional \$30 million annually for 10 years.

The bishops also urged reflection on "whether the high cost of embryonic stem-cell research and the lack of cures from such research have made venture capitalists reluctant to invest in human cloning technology."

"We believe this raises profound moral questions, not the least of which is whether state government should subsidize and force morally opposed taxpayers to subsidize research that requires the destruction of human life," they added.

Similarly, the Massachusetts bishops called on legislators to join the United Nations, which approved a declaration March 8 calling on member states to "prohibit all forms of human cloning inasmuch as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life."

"This international move demonstrates that the debate cannot be reduced to a disagreement between religion and science," the bishops added.

In Washington the same day, President Bush applauded the U.N. action, which was supported by the United States.

"Human life must not be created for the purpose of destroying it," Bush said.

A study published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* said researchers at Tufts University isolated a stem cell from bone marrow that they think might have as much potential to become different kinds of cells as embryonic stem cells do.

"I think embryonic stem cells are going to fade in the rear-view mirror of adult stem cells," said Dr. Douglas Losordo, lead researcher for the Tufts study.

Contributing to this story was Donis Tracy in Boston and Editor Kevin E. Murray.

Stem-cell basics explained

WASHINGTON (CNS) — So what are stem cells and why should you care?

The foundational cells for all life, stem cells can be coaxed into becoming a wide variety of tissues and even organs, scientists believe.

Two characteristics distinguish stem cells from other types of cells:

— They are "unspecialized cells that renew themselves for long periods through cell division."

— Under certain conditions, "they can be induced to become cells with special functions" such as heart muscle or the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas.

Based on successful research on animals, scientists have theorized that stem cells could play a role in preventing or curing a variety of diseases, conditions and disabilities including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, spinal cord injuries, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and burns.

But since researchers discovered in 1998 how to isolate and develop human embryonic stem cells, no human disease or condition has been successfully treated with them.

The only definitive advances in treating humans have come using adult stem cells, such as the blood-forming stem cells in bone marrow, used to treat leukemia, lymphoma and several inherited blood disorders.

The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-

Life Activities calls the claims about the potential of embryonic stem cells "largely speculation."

"Embryonic stem cells have never treated a human patient, and animal trials suggest that they are too genetically unstable and too likely to form lethal tumors to be used for treatment anytime soon," said a release.

"This kind of exaggerated 'promise' has misled researchers and patient groups before — most obviously in the case of fetal tissue from abortions, which a decade ago was said to promise miracle cures and has produced nothing of the kind," it said.

Embryonic stem cells come from living embryos that have been frozen after creation for in vitro fertilization procedures or, less frequently, created by cloning specifically for research. Harvesting stem cells from them always kills the embryos.

Adult stem cells come from three sources — pregnancy-related tissue such as umbilical cords, placentas and amniotic fluid; adult tissues and organ systems such as bone marrow, liver, skin, intestine, brain and even fat; and, rarely, postmortem human brains up to 20 hours after death.



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Pope reminds Catholics of need to go to confession

Only those with no mortal sins may receive body of Christ, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics must remember that they may not receive Communion if they have committed a serious sin and have not gone to confession, Pope John Paul II said.

In the year the church has dedicated to the Eucharist, it is important to remind people of the importance of going to confession, the pope said in a message sent from Rome's Gemelli hospital.

The pope's message, released at the Vatican March 12, was addressed to priests taking a course at the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with matters related to confession and questions of conscience.

"Only one who has a sincere awareness of not having committed a mortal sin can receive the body of Christ," the pope said in his message.

The prayers of the Mass underline the need for "purification and conversion," he said, citing the initial penitential rite, the sign of peace and the prayers immediately before the reception of the Eucharist.

The pope said the Gospel readings of Lent "help us to better understand the

value of this unique priestly ministry."

"They show the Savior while converting the Samaritan woman, becoming a source of joy for her; he heals the man born blind, becoming a source of light for him; he raises Lazarus from the dead and shows how life and resurrection defeat death, the consequence of sin," the pope wrote.

"His penetrating gaze, his word and his judgment of love enlighten the conscience of those he meets, provoking their conversion and profound renewal," Pope John Paul said.

The pope said that in an age when people seem to forget about God and ignore the reality of sin priests and religious educators must work even harder to help people understand that Christ is calling them to conversion, "which presupposes a conscious confession of their sins and the request for forgiveness and salvation."

The pope also told the priests that people will not approach them unless they model their lives and behavior on Christ, "the teacher and pastor, healer of souls and bodies, spiritual guide and just and merciful judge."

Deo Gratias

UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERY OF THE MASS, PART 11

We mentioned last week that the Liturgy of the Word offers us the opportunity to listen to the voice of the good shepherd, who still guides his church from his throne in heaven.

At each Mass, the eternal Word of the eternal Father unfolds the mystery of our redemption from the Old Testament to the New Testament, and finally into the present day. He constantly reveals the divine plan of our salvation.

And last week we continued our examination of the Liturgy of the Word by following this revelation from our first reading from the Old Testament, the Responsorial Psalm, New Testament Epistle, and finally the holy Gospel. This week we continue our discussion by inspecting the homily or sermon that follows the reading of the Gospel.

At the conclusion of each reading from sacred Scripture, there is a ritual indicating that the reading has ended. The Lector proclaims, "Verbum Domini" ["The word of the Lord"] and we respond, "Deo Gratias" ["Thanks be to God"].

It is truly fitting that this ritual follow the retelling and the recounting of the events of salvation history found in Scripture. Indeed, our souls and our minds ought to respond with great joy to the proclamation of Scripture in gratitude and thanksgiving for what God has accomplished through His beloved Son. The whole of Sacred Scripture is Good News to us who are in desperate need of God's abundant mercy and love.

The Liturgy of the Word reaches its summit in the proclamation of the Gospel, marked by the use of incense; the joyful Alleluia chant (which in itself is a shout of praise at the resurrection and victory of the Lord); and standing at attention, for the words and deeds of Our Lord are about to be spoken.

Following this reading, another ritual response is exchanged, "Verbum Domini" ["The Gospel of the Lord"], "Laus tibi Christe" ["Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ"]. The faithful are then seated once again.

Until now, the Mass has maintained a strict ritual, including the ritual responses at the conclusion of each reading. But here, the celebrant departs somewhat from a formal structure in order to explain and instruct. In other

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



words, following the Gospel, the homily or sermon, is the first unstructured response of man to God's saving activity in salvation history.

And so, the homily extends our response to the readings; the homily is an extended Deo Gratias for what God has accomplished and continues to accomplish in bringing about our salvation.

It is important to note that only those in Holy Orders — deacons, priests and bishops — may proclaim the Gospel and preach during the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Why? Not only do these men receive years of theological training, but they are officially consecrated by Holy Mother Church to preach in the name of Christ: they are not to give their personal opinions and views, but rather they speak on behalf of the Church as an instrument of Christ (Cf. Redemptionis Sacramentum No. 65-67).

As we just mentioned, the celebrant may give either a homily or a sermon. There is a slight distinction between them: a homily generally focuses on the readings from sacred Scripture, whereas a sermon usually focuses on a particular topic or theme, such as the Seven Deadly Sins or a sermon on charity.

It is also important to note the distinction between preaching and teaching. The object of preaching is to increase faith, whereas the object of teaching is to increase knowledge. The ultimate purpose of the homily or sermon is to increase faith, although elements of catechesis should be included to accomplish that goal.

Unfortunately, one of the difficulties about preaching in our day is an unreasonable expectation of the homily. We may expect the homily to provide us with our weekly dose of Catholic faith and life: history, theology, philosophy, spirituality, liturgy, morality, Scripture analysis, etc. And we want it in five minutes or less!

I will never forget one Dominican motto: "One homily cannot cover everything." Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God!

Next week we will conclude our discussion of the Liturgy of the Word as we take a look at the Profession of Faith and General Intercessions.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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Irish saint not really so Irish

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St. Patrick, Ireland's favorite saint, wasn't actually Irish. Nor did he drive the snakes out of Ireland.

Instead, he was born in Britain as the pampered, far-from-faith-filled son of a Roman nobleman around 385 A.D. Patrick's real name is believed to have been Maewyn Succat, and his baptismal name was Patricius.

In his teens, his plush lifestyle ended when his village was attacked and slave traders kidnapped and sold him to an Irish chieftain. Serving as a shepherd on a lonesome hillside, the distraught youth gradually turned to prayer and, after six years, made a daring escape to Gaul (now France) and eventually returned home.

But memories of the Irish haunted him and Patrick felt God wanted him to preach the Good News in pagan Ireland. Ordained to the priesthood, he sailed back to Ireland in 432 A.D. and in essence converted the entire populace. That this was accomplished without resorting to violence is a historical rarity.

Patrick's success at winning converts upset the Celtic Druids. They arrested Patrick several times, but he escaped each time.

Patrick established monasteries across Ireland, which were instrumental in preserving Western civilization's literary traditions through the Dark Ages. He also set up schools and churches, which would help him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

It is believed that Patrick raised people from the dead, though this cannot be substantiated. He is also said to have given a sermon from the hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Because no snakes were ever native to Ireland, many scholars believe this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans to Christianity.

Patrick's mission in Ireland lasted for 30 years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17, 461 A.D. The day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a secular holiday, often celebrated with parades and festivals.

Mercy Sister Patricia Durbin, director of the diocesan Media Resources Office, contributed to this story.

Legend of the shamrock

The shamrock, a three-leafed clover, is the national emblem of Ireland. It is widely believed that St. Patrick used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity, but the idea cannot be proven.

The shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism.

As English seized Irish land and made laws against the Irish language and practice of Catholicism, many Irish wore the shamrock as a symbol of their heritage and displeasure with English rule.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

St. Pat's parade

The ninth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 12 was the largest parade to date, with 95 groups. Above: Charlotte Catholic High School. Below left: Ancient Order of Hibernians Mecklenburg — Division 1. Below right: St. Mark School in Huntersville's Girl Scout Troop 608.



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PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Top left: St. Patrick School in Charlotte. Top right: Belmont Abbey College' alumni. Above left: St. Matthew School in Charlotte. Above right: St. Ann School in Charlotte. Right: Jesuit Father Thomas McDonnell, parochial vicar at St. Peter Church in Charlotte, blesses the start of the parade while flanked by Knights of Columbus. Below: Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Brigid Division 1.



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The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

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David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Pope formed ideas for book during years of meetings

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland — A Polish philosopher who provided material for Pope John Paul II's latest book, "Memory and Identity," said the pope was helped to formulate ideas by contacts with leading philosophers over many years.

"Our talks focused on the 20th century's experience of evil, as the pope had seen it — we wanted to act as catalysts, helping the pope tell his own story," said Krzysztof Michalski, rector of the Austrian-based Institute of Human Sciences.

"So the conversations were often very personal, about times and people," said Michalski. "Philosophy appeared in the background, sometimes as a signpost, sometimes a hindrance."

Michalski said that as early as 1980 he and the pope's longtime friend, the late Father Jozef Tischner, helped arrange discussions with leading thinkers at the pope's summer home in Castel Gandolfo. He said discussions included the late German philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer, Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor, the late French mathematician Rene Thom and Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski.

Michalski said the pope later agreed to discuss his "life and insights" at separate meetings with him and Father Tischner.

"We asked how he'd viewed prewar, occupied and communist Poland, and then Europe and the world," he said. "We wanted to show Karol Wojtyla's ideas in his life context, as motives for his behavior."

The pope acknowledges his debt to Michalski and Father Tischner in "Memory and Identity," which was published in Italian Feb. 22. A Polish edition by Krakow-based Znak is to be launched March 14 in Warsaw.

Michalski said the pope had encouraged an "exchange of ideas" between Catholics and non-Catholics while he was archbishop of Krakow in the 1970s and had later "taken his intellectual interests to Rome."

He added that the pope viewed Nazism and communism "mostly through the experiences of people he met" and said the pope's Polish identity helped him appreciate human sufferings.

"He said his Polish experience had helped him, as pope, better understand societies that were hurt, struggling for independence or economic justice," Michalski said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAR. 27, 2005

March 27, Easter Sunday

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4 or 1
Corinthians 5:6b-8
- 3) Gospel: John 20:1-9

Resurrection story offers hope, joy

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Clean and vacant in the morning sunlight, the yellow house stood in sharp contrast to the unspeakable violence that had exploded inside its once peaceful walls.

Little evidence of life remained in the surrounding yard except for a few struggling perennial remnants. The occupant of this modest residence, now empty, had been a widow, a mother, a mother-in-law and a grandmother — a disciple of Jesus and finally, ironically, a murder victim.

Irene's family had gathered for the last time in front of her yellow house. I walked toward what had once been a clump of

irises. At my feet lay three dehydrated leaves with roots partially exposed. Rescuing these pathetic leaves became my mission, for somehow they had become my fragile connection to Irene, the woman who planted them — my mother-in-law.

During the next nine years the irises flourished but did not bloom. My husband and I babied them. We consulted plant books. Nothing happened. Hope faded. Perhaps they were just too sad to bloom.

Then one morning in early April I went out for my daily iris inspection. Expecting nothing, I was shocked by joy; there among the leaves a bud stalk was shooting upward. Soon it would reveal the glorious purple petals now tightly wrapped like a splendid gift.

For my husband and me, the iris had become a labor of love and healing — a sign of resurrection.

On this Sunday of the Easter Triduum, we return to the empty tomb once again. We join the women and men as they try to grasp the great mystery of what it means to rise from the dead. They soon will know that it is a quest that takes a lifetime, accompanied by the risen Lord, a journey that will surely end in unspeakable joy.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20-26

Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Matthew 21:1-11, Is 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66; Monday (Monday of Holy Week), Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week), Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week), Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; Thursday (Holy Thursday), Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; Friday (Good Friday of the Lord's Passion), Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; Saturday (Holy Saturday), Exodus 14:15-15:1 Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-10.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 27 - APRIL 2

Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; Monday (Monday in the Octave of Easter), Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; Tuesday (Tuesday in the Octave of Easter), Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; Wednesday (Wednesday in the Octave of Easter), Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; Thursday (Thursday in the Octave of Easter), Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; Friday (Easter Friday), Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; Saturday (Easter Saturday), Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

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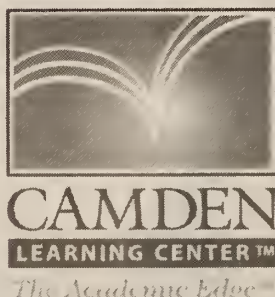
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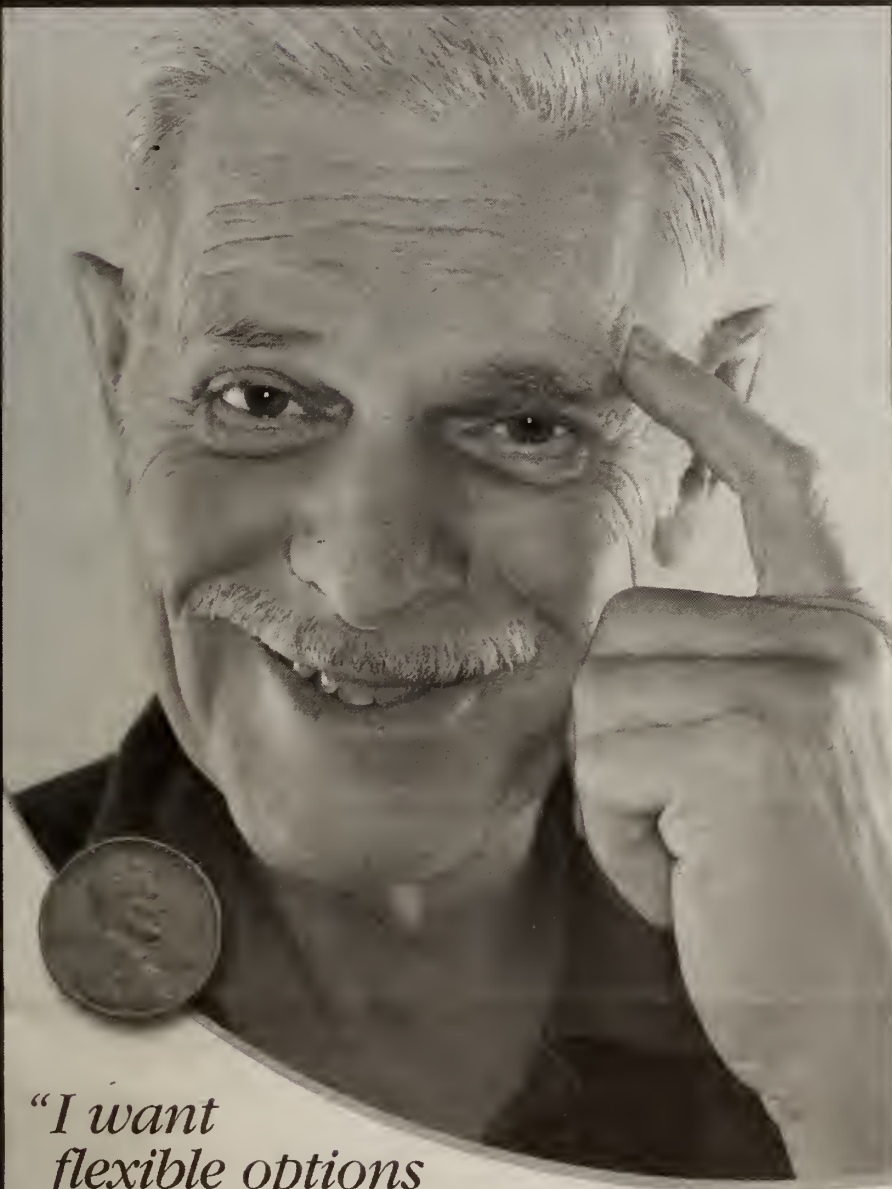
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Thousands flock to Denver cathedral to venerate relics of Passion

CATHOLIC, GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCHES SHARE TRADITION,
SAYS PRIEST

BY ROXANNE KING
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DENVER — Several thousand people flocked to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver March 5-6 to venerate items associated with Christ's last hours.

Some waited up to an hour to view the "Relics of the Passion" exhibit, which began its 2005 tour to six cities in February in Honolulu. The tour will end in Los Angeles during Holy Week.

Sponsored by the Apostolate for Holy Relics, the exhibit included a piece of the true cross discovered by St. Helena; full-size replicas of the nails used in Jesus' crucifixion made with shavings from the actual nails; remains from the crown of thorns worn by Jesus; and a portion of the "sindonis," the cloth believed to be the exterior wrapping in which the burial cloth of Jesus was kept when it was not being venerated.

Additional relics were an artist's rendition of Veronica's veil that had been touched to the veil itself; a piece of the column of flagellation used in Jesus' scourging; a relic of the table of the Last Supper; and a bone fragment of St. Longinus, the centurion who pierced Christ's side and proclaimed, "Indeed, this was the Son of God."

The display drew Catholics, non-Catholics and people from both inside and outside the Denver Archdiocese. Their reaction to the relics was a mixture of curiosity, excitement, reverence and awe.

"Today is my birthday, I had to come," said Greek Orthodox Father Ambrose Mayas, 58.

Clad in the tall black headdress and robes of his faith, the priest bowed and blessed himself several times before the relics, which were under the watchful eyes of caped Knights of Columbus.

Noting that the veneration of relics is an ancient tradition shared by the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches, he said, "They are heavenly

images that bring us closer to God."

He said the display reminded him of last year's blockbuster movie, "The Passion of the Christ," a recut version of which opened in Denver March 11. The display, like the film, brought to life the Gospel events of redemption, he said.

Deeply touched by the close relationship between Jesus and his mother depicted in the film, the 58-year-old priest said he was also struck by the manner in which Christ accepted his cross.

"In love and compassion he embraced the cross for all of us to set us free," Father Mayas said, thrilled that the display included a fragment of the true cross.

Jim Lucero, 54, an Anglican who became a Catholic nine years ago, said the relics are tangible reminders of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

"I love the church because it has so much history and the relics are part of that history," he said. "By faith I do believe those relics are part of Our Lord's history. It's incredible we have that physical matter we can identify with Our Lord."

The relics on display were all authenticated in Rome, according to Tom Serafin, president of the Apostolate for Holy Relics, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the guardianship and promotion of relics that operates with the approval of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

But he emphasized that their veneration is not a question of proof, but an act of faith — even if curiosity drives a person to see them.

"The intention is still pure," he said. "The action of the people that venerate them validates the relics themselves, whether an act of thanksgiving, hope, reparation or an act of love for Christ's crucifixion."

Many of those praying before the sacred items took rosaries, religious medals or scapulars to be touched to the relic of the true cross.

Serafin said he was particularly moved by those who asked him to touch their wedding rings to the relic, calling his ability to do so for them "a privilege."

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COURTESY PHOTO

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

COURTING SUCCESS

Catholic school honors basketball teams

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — A recent day at Asheville Catholic School ended with an impromptu assembly to honor the boys' and girls' basketball teams.

The players were met with cheers from their fellow classmates as they

entered the gymnasium March 1. Both teams won first place during the annual Shamrock Basketball Tournament held at Catholic schools in Charlotte Feb. 25-27.

Thirty-four teams from schools in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia participated in the tournament.

After playing six games in less than 48 hours, Asheville Catholic's girls' team topped their undefeated season with first place in the tournament, playing in both large- school and small-school divisions.

Asheville Catholic's boys' team, which had only one loss all season, took first place in the boys' small-school division.

Mary Evans, Asheville Catholic's athletic director, praised both teams for their dedication and hard work as well as girls' team coach Charlene Reeves and boys' team coaches Steve Cogburn and Tommy Gassaway.

"They were the most unselfish teams in giving up the ball and letting everyone have a chance," said Evans.

All tournament players were treated to a dance March 26, giving them a chance to meet each other in a non-competitive setting.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

The Asheville Catholic School girls' basketball and boys' basketball team members display their awards after both teams took first place in the annual Shamrock Basketball Tournament in Charlotte Feb. 25-27. The teams were honored with a special assembly at Asheville Catholic School March 1.



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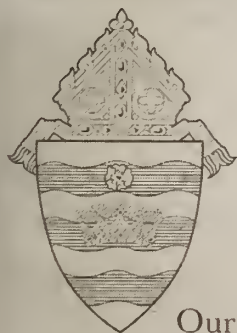
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The Easter hero: St. Thomas

Saint shows doorway to Jesus

Having celebrated Easter with lilies and alleluias, we have also turned a new leaf into full bloom with the conversion process, which has already begun (I hope) and will continue until we die.

Nature, in this time of the year, does just that. If we are not in this spirit, it's never too late to begin. So we pray that Easter may not simply be a day on the calendar, but a way of life. Faith is not just a present memory of past events in a distant land, but is a living presence and a guiding power.

The stone of selfishness has been rolled away, the tomb is empty of pride and Jesus' resurrection is not the grand finale. That same Jesus is in our midst today, knocking at the doors of our lives. God forbid we dare to celebrate only what has already happened, the pages of faith already written, the miracles already performed.

We celebrate our journey today and the miracles of our daily lives. So, Easter is not over and will never be over. During this season, the doubting Thomas is our guide.

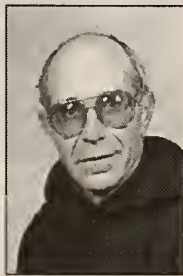
What do we know about St. Thomas? He was one of the Twelve Apostles. His name in Aramaic means "twin." Since the question "who's twin was he?" cannot be answered, I let the scholars have fun with it.

My fascination for St. Thomas is based on the fact that his story is our story: we want to see, to touch; we want reasons to believe. There is a Thomas in each one of us. He didn't quit, but he experienced failure, fear and disappointment. He makes us understand that we cannot stay in our own tombs of selfishness and greed. It's time to come out and soon.

Thomas was an outsider for not being with the Apostles when the Lord appeared, but soon became an insider for having had the privilege of seeing and touching Jesus with his own eyes and his

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap.



own hands. Until we are able to touch the wounds of our sisters and brothers, we will never appreciate the greatness of loving and the risk of believing.

Thomas was locked out because of fear, pessimism and grief. The doors were shut and he was outside. His doubts paralyzed his love for the Lord.

Some people can certainly understand Thomas' drama when they feel imprisoned by fear. God seems only a myth, justice is relative and Jesus is a fairy tale. Thomas was a believer who wanted proof. His analytical mind demanded more than hearsay. He was the first who sensed trouble ahead and said, "Let us also go that we may die with Him" (Jn.11:16); but the hostility and the crucifixion heaped so heavily on him that his rock-like courage was cracked into pieces.

The door of fear is so powerful that it can lock you out of faith. Another door that shut Thomas out was pessimism. He knew things were going badly. He feared the worst and it happened. The arrest, trial, execution and death of his beloved master greatly disturbed him to the point of feeling defeated and full of doubts and fears. If they did this to Jesus, whom can you trust?

How many times have we been defeated by our own fears, discouraged by our doubts and eventually become cynical? Thomas' story is our story.

The third door that locked Thomas out was grief. There is no doubt that Thomas loved Jesus, but when what he feared really happened, it broke his heart. Jesus was everything to him, but when he

Why humility is such an attractive virtue

Being humble begets honesty and vice versa

Humility is an attractive quality, isn't it?

The word "humility" comes from the Latin "humus," meaning "earth." Humble people are down to earth. To avoid becoming too lofty, they plant their feet firmly on the ground by knowing who they truly are and admitting that without God they wouldn't be here or have what they have. They unabashedly submit to a higher power.

Part of the reason for humility's outstanding attractiveness is its honesty, a virtue that has been revered by all great civilizations. Take, for example, the Romans. During Rome's golden age, senators customarily had marble busts made of themselves. Artisans employed the time-consuming task of hand polishing the marble until it was smooth.

As the demand for busts increased, artisans learned they could speed up the process by filling in flaws with wax rather than polishing them smooth. This worked well until one hot Roman summer. The baking sun began melting the wax, and all of a sudden young, handsome-looking senators lost their youthful, smooth looks.

The senators immediately employed their legal powers to rectify the situation, passing the law that said: "All marble works of busts must be sculpted without wax." The word for "without" in Latin is "sine," and for "wax," it is "cera." This is where we get our word "sincerity."

When we are sincere, there is no waxing over what we say or do. We tell it as it is and don't try to make ourselves out to be something we're not. We humbly admit limitations, especially our own, and accept them.

was killed, life faded away for Thomas as well. He was in such a deep grief that he could not be with anyone. He had to be alone.

There are times when sorrow needs silence and solitude. The greatness of Thomas is that he got out of this mess with three positive steps: Christian fellowship, truth and faith.

The Gospel tells us that on the next appearance, the disciples were in the upper room. The doors once more were locked, but this time Thomas was inside with the others. Thomas realized his first big mistake was withdrawing from the fellowship of the disciples.

The next positive step taken by Thomas was his uncompromising honesty. He refused to say he understood what he didn't or that he believed what he couldn't. He would not quiet his doubts by pretending they did not exist.

The third positive step was faith to counteract his doubts. Thomas did not air his doubts for the sake of mental gymnastics. He doubted in order to be

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



So humility begets honesty, and vice versa.

There is something else to mention about humility. When we are humble, we aren't afraid of what others think of us. We are ourselves without pretenses. What others see in us is authentic; they can take it or leave it.

Today's society is becoming increasingly concerned about the games so-called reputable people play. So people are crying out for the virtue of humility in the church, government and, for that matter, society as a whole. There is a growing sense that manipulating, hiding and falsifying the truth could destroy our nation.

Society hungers more than ever today for people of character who know their humble beginnings and limitations, and speak truthfully. We want to see humility, honesty and sincerity in society. Repeatedly, the church is being reminded to imitate Christ's love of humility, sincerity and truth.

Jesus praised the humility of the tax collector who confessed his sins. He did not wax over things when teaching, and he asked us to follow him as the way, the life and the truth.

sure and when he was sure, he committed himself totally and completely: "My Lord and my God."

Doubting our doubts is a sign of wisdom and maturity. Faith, on the other hand, must be embraced as is without hesitation or fear. Of course, faith has a variety of stages and we may experience the frail faith of a superficial believer or the strong faith of a saint.

Faith is the eye by which we look to Jesus. A blurry eye is still an eye and so is a weeping and smiling eye. Faith is the hand with which we lay hold of Jesus. A trembling hand is still a hand. Faith is the foot by which we go to Jesus. A lame foot is still a foot.

Thank you, Thomas, for teaching us how to become insiders and how we can open the door to Jesus, wishing to enter into our history. You have shown us the way: "Don't wait to be perfect in order to love and believe, because you never will."

Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

Deca-logic

HOW DIFFERENT LIFE WOULD BE IF WE FOLLOWED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Learned any good words lately? If you are a regular consumer of the news, you've no doubt added the word "Decalogue" to your vocabulary. Decalogue, a proper noun, is Greek for "ten words." It is a media substitution for the Ten Commandments. Why they don't just say "The Ten Commandments" is, well, Greek to me.

The Ten Commandments are in the news because of a Supreme Court case. The Justices will try to answer the burning question of whether our republic will survive the placement of monuments bearing God's dictation to Moses on the tree-shaded lawns of state capitols and county courthouses.

Everyone knows that replicas of the stone tablets that Moses carried from the mountain are the Ten Commandments. But let's be honest, who can recite all 10? Sadly, these monuments, most of which are about 50 years old, have been unread and unnoticed until this case, a sad fact that the Court's decision probably will not change.

The larger question is the issue of the state promoting religion. It's a constitutional "no-no" that has fueled ACLU cases from Maine to San Diego. Of course, the last time I checked, most governments were having serious problems with some of their basic services such as teaching children how to read and fixing potholes.

The idea of elected officials and bureaucrats effectively encouraging the

complex notion of eternal salvation through religion should raise an eyebrow in mirth, not concern. But there is no law against bringing a lawsuit.

What if the Court decided to toss aside the Constitution and make Christianity our official religion? That would make the Ten Commandments the law of the land. Let's look at how different the media would be with the Decalogue as its point of reference:

1. I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Instead of endlessly promoting money, sex and power, the focus would shift to faith, service and compassion. Not a bad start.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

Although close to No. 1, Scripture indicates that this is a physical image of an idol or false god. Posters of surly, overpaid athletes and underdressed teen "celebrities" would be banished.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of God in vain.

This would severely limit the vocabulary of many cable-TV channels and they might go off the air.

4. Remember the Sabbath day, keep it holy.

With no "big" games on TV on Sundays, families discover that communication and time spent together are more rewarding.

5. Honor thy father and thy mother.

Kids would plan activities for their parents instead of the other way around. Walt Disney World closes, Epcot thrives.

The next four Commandments are already on the books. What would happen to the media if they were actually obeyed?

6. Thou shalt not kill.

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



This would be good news for everyone except for TV news people. Without murder and mayhem, local TV newscasts would have almost nothing to report. Commercials for car dealers would fill the extra time.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. "Entertainment Tonight" goes off the air. Jerry Springer is seen at the unemployment office.

8. Thou shalt not steal. See number six above since this represents the balance of local news.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

The shorthand for this is called lying. With no false witness to bear, all of the court TV shows would be replaced by cartoons. As an added bonus, the IRS would have more money than Bill Gates.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

The last Commandment covers greed and jealousy that, while difficult to codify in law, are not very nice. Suffice it to say that if you were following the first Commandment, then this one would be automatic.

Of course if the high court rules that the monuments must be removed, then the media will be unchanged except for extensive "live" on-the-spot coverage and analysis of the protests that take place when the bulldozers arrive.

Letter to the Editor

Understanding the 'Mystery'

I just wanted to say how beneficial Father Matthew Buettner's series on the Mystery of the Mass has been. It's both a refresher for me, a cradle Catholic, and a learning experience for my husband, a Protestant.

Thank you.

— Diana Ross
Charlotte

Immigrants should take legal route

With all due respect to Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., I vehemently disagree with him in regard to illegal immigrants and workers ("Farming support," March 11).

I legally immigrated to this country in January 1954; five years later I became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. Of course, I had to learn the language of my adopted country.

Bishop Wenski's contention that these people — illegal workers in this country who have invested equity — deserve "legal immigration status" does not make any sense to me.

As a taxpayer ... I have all the compassion and understanding — economic and otherwise — for the millions of people who would do anything to enter into this country. But I would say to these people: apply for it legally and learn the language of this country.

— Joseph De Lillo
Bryson City

A film whose theme transcends life

Meaningful existence stems from sacrifice

Clint Eastwood is gifted, but he will never be one of the great directors because he chooses themes for his movies that deal with murder in one form or another. His work always serves the culture of death.

One of the greatest directors of all time, Akira Kurosawa, on the other hand, usually chooses themes that transcend life and elevate his audience to idealism. One of his classics, "IKIRU" (which means "to live"), won universal praise as one of his greatest movies. In it he asks his audience, What does it mean to live a worthwhile life?

As the story begins, a 50-year-old, low-level office worker named Watanabe-san, is looking at an X-ray showing a large white growth in his stomach. He learns that he has only six months to live. We all are confronted with the question, What would you do if you had only six more months to live?

Watanabe-san is of course devastated. He sinks into darkness and self-pity, regretting that he worked half his life away and never took the time really to live. Life is so short.

We stay with him in his misery for a while, but soon he begins to feel the need

to make up for lost time. A friend sympathizes with him, and the two go on a pleasure-seeking rampage, which only leaves him more depressed.

Then he meets a young girl who is full of youthful joy. He tells her his story and gets her to feel sorry for him. Her efforts to cheer him up take their toll, and she soon tires of him. He in turn realizes that he cannot find meaning by living vicariously through another.

Suddenly, there is an epiphany. He comes to his senses and understands that a meaningful life is only possible if one is willing to sacrifice himself to help others. He sees the importance of leaving this world a little better than it was before one entered upon the scene of life.

The movie's irony is that too often only by a radical confrontation with death does one come to realize true liberation.

A familiar theme to Christians is: It is in giving that we receive and in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

Watanabe-san's spirit begins to soar as he devotes himself to helping a group of mothers who had been trying to get a park built for their children on the site of a filthy lot near their homes. The bureau-

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN
CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



crats had resisted them for months.

As his health fails, Watanabe-san decides to battle the system right up to the office of the mayor. He continually is disrespected and rejected.

Then he learns that a group of gangsters want to buy the land and turn it into a bar. He goes respectfully to the head gangster and pleads his case. The sinister figure threatens to kill him if he persists. Watanabe-san suppresses a smile and stares him down.

Surprisingly, the politicians cave in, not out of any sense of idealism, but because it was an election year. The racketeers even back off, and the park is built. Watanabe-san then dies a peaceful death.

In the next scene we are at the wake. On the closed-casket a picture of Watanabe-san is placed for all to see. The grieving mothers come in, full of gratitude, and pay their respects.

In Kurosawa's work idealism triumphs over apathy, and sacrifice prevails over selfishness.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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St. William Church serves Catholics of western North Carolina for five decades



FILE PHOTO

St. William Church, nestled in the Appalachian Mountains of Cherokee County, has served as the spiritual home for Catholics in western North Carolina for 50 years.

MURPHY — In a state where today Catholics compose less than four percent of the population, the faith was thriving in the western extremes of North Carolina more than 60 years ago.

In 1936, Father Howard Lane assumed the pastorate of the Waynesville parish of St. John Church. The parish boundaries included the seven westernmost counties of the state. Father Lane offered a weekly lecture series at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy for two months in 1937, after which several other Diocese of Raleigh priests periodically celebrated Mass in Murphy.

A resident's home, a funeral parlor, a theater and a hotel dining room all served as sites for Masses in Murphy over the years. In the early 1950s, local parishioners — with St. John Church's pastor, Father Lawrence Newman — began a church building campaign. A call for help was issued to families across the nation with the surname Murphy to

assist in building a Catholic church in the mountain town. The campaign raised \$5,000, which the Catholic Extension Society doubled with a matching contribution.

Construction was underway in 1952, and the new St. William Church, including a parish hall and priest's living quarters, was dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters in August of that year.

In December 1954, Glenmary Father Joseph Dean became the first Glenmary Home Missioner to serve the parish. Father Dean — the first resident pastor of Cherokee County — and his successors went to work evangelizing throughout the western mountain regions of North Carolina. They established several missions during the 1950s and '60s, including Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, which today remains in the pastoral care of St. William Church.

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Father George M. Kloster

Mass., arrived in Murphy at the invitation of Father Dean in January 1956. They managed and staffed Petrie Hospital, which was blessed and dedicated as Providence Hospital by Bishop Waters in November 1956. The sisters remained in Murphy until 1978.

Glenmary Sisters also served the area beginning in 1958. They established a home nursing service — today's Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency — and assisted in fervent missionary work.

St. William Church and the Catholic population of the surrounding area con-

tinued to grow markedly during the 1960s into the late '80s. The Glenmary Missioners offered their spiritual leadership to many people, and were instrumental in evangelizing, educating and ministering to people living in the western extremes of the state. Churches were built or enlarged, a Bible Center was constructed, a parish in Andrews was established and a pastoral center was opened to instruct Glenmary priests and brothers.

In autumn of 1984, under the direction of the Diocese of Charlotte's founding shepherd, Bishop Michael J. Begley, ground was broken for a new church in Murphy. The new St. William Church, complete with a parish hall and offices, hosted its first Mass on Christmas Eve, 1985. Almost 300 people attended then-Bishop John F. Donoghue's dedication ceremony in April 1986.

In June 1987, Father Bernard Manley became the first diocesan priest to serve the parishioners of St. William Church. He remained until June 1991, when Father Edmund Kirsch succeeded him. Father George Kloster assumed the pastorate of St. William Church in 1998 and serves there today.

In 1999, the diocesan office of Catholic Social Services established the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Murphy. St. William parishioners are actively involved with the agency, which seeks to create a collaborative, community-driven effort to achieve economic justice in Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties.

As a member of the Cherokee County Ministerial Association, the parish strives to maintain a healthy spirit of ecumenism, as well, in the western mountains. The Catholic population continues to grow in Cherokee County, with dozens of visiting faithful from Florida and elsewhere spending their summer months in the mountains.

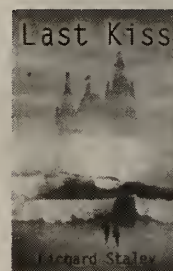
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—James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief, The Midwest Book Review

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass,
Part 12; eucharistic
adoration list

|PAGE 7

MARCH 25, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 25

A gathering of the faithful

Bishop, priests
rededicate to
ministry during
chrism Mass

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Priests must be willing to sacrifice in order to be good shepherds of Christ's people, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"Whether a priest is celebrating the sacraments, or teaching in a classroom, he is in all of those instances gathering Christ's flock around him, and they hear him and respond as he feeds them on the Word of Life and the sacraments," said Bishop Jugis.

The bishop offered these words during the chrism Mass, one of the Church's most solemn Masses, at St. Patrick Cathedral March 22. During the annual Mass, priests rededicate themselves to their priestly ministry, and the bishop blesses the oils to

See CHRISM, page 5



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis prays the prayer of blessing for the chrism oil during the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 22. Pictured (from left): Deacon Carlos Medina, permanent deacon at St. Patrick Cathedral; Bishop Jugis; seminarian Paul McNulty; Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt (background), pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont; and Father Christopher Roux, master of ceremonies.

Vatican newspaper: Schiavo condemned to 'an atrocious death'

SCHIAVO BEING PUNISHED
FOR BEING 'USELESS,'
SAYS EDITORIAL

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Terri Schindler Schiavo has been condemned to die "an atrocious death" in a society that is "incapable of appreciating and defending the gift of life," said the Vatican's newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano* in its March 23 edition.

A judge in the United States "has decided that Terri's life is not worth living, at the same time condemning the woman to an atrocious death: death by starvation and thirst," the paper said.

The paper gave its reaction to the case of the severely brain-damaged Florida woman in a front-page editorial.

Schiavo, 41, who has been

See SCHIAVO, page 4

As opinions shift, church campaigns against death penalty

Execution
moratorium called
for in N.C.

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As North Carolina lawmakers were signing a bill that calls for a suspension of executions, the U.S. bishops were kicking off a campaign to end the death penalty in the nation.

On March 20, a bipartisan

See CAMPAIGN, page 12

Lending a helping Hand to Hand

Ministry one of many programs highlighted
during CSS Awareness Week

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO THE
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

WINSTON-SALEM — Brigitte Stowe of Winston-Salem was an 18-year-old high school graduate with a lot going for her in 2001.

College bound, she had been accepted at North Carolina Central University in Durham. With no scholarships, her plan was to pay her way with student loans and membership in the ROTC.

See CSS, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

Brigitte Stowe and her 2-year-old son, Isaiah, read a book. When she was a pregnant teen-ager, Stowe was assisted through Catholic Social Service's Hand to Hand Program.

Culture Watch

'Da Vinci Code' still anti-Catholic; 'Millions' features Catholic students

Parish Profile

St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis serves growing community

To our readers

Our next issue will be April 8. We wish our readers a blessed Easter.

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

ARMED WITH FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. NATHAN ALAN HEUSDENS, USMC

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks with Marine Lance Cpl. Douglas Curl Jr. during a visit earlier this year to Camp Fallujah, Iraq. Pace presented the Purple Heart to Curl and several other Marines who were wounded in area fighting.

High-ranking Catholic Marine sees no conflict between military, faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A photo of Guido Farrinaro still sits on the desk of Marine Gen. Peter Pace in his Pentagon office.

"He was the first man killed doing something that I asked be done," said the four-star general, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the second-highest-ranking military man in the nation.

The photo, he said, is not only a reminder of Farrinaro, but of all those who have died under his command while serving their country.

It also reminds him to act in ways his Catholic faith requires him to act and recalls the moral lessons imparted to him by the nuns who taught him.

"I struggled real hard not to lash out and be vindictive" after Farrinaro's death in Vietnam, Pace said. "That would have been counter to what the nuns taught me. I can't imagine how I would live with myself had I succumbed to something contrary to what they taught me."

The School Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, who staffed his boyhood parish in Bogota, N.J., taught him morals that "are my anchor and the time to hold onto that anchor is the time you are least prepared to do so."

After joining the Marines, Pace was

sent to Vietnam in 1968 and put in command of a rifle platoon that experienced heavy casualties.

His time in Vietnam, he said, "drew me closer to God. The most memorable Masses I ever attended were in the field, with bomb craters as gathering places and artillery crates as an altar."

Pace said his Catholic faith and belief in God are fundamental to what he does today.

"Without God, you could start to believe that the power you have belongs to you," he said. "It does not belong to you. It belongs to God and you borrow it."

"As a general you can do good things, you can use your power to make things right. When you report to the next life, you had better be able to report that you used your power to serve the people."

His Catholic faith does not conflict with his military career, he said.

"I am very comfortable with the United States military and what we do. We do not keep territory. We go in, do what we need to do, free the people and leave," said Pace.

"We never conquer and we never subjugate the people. What we do is fundamentally good — we free people and their lands."

CRS collects \$121 million in tsunami aid

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency based in Baltimore, has collected \$121 million for tsunami relief operations as of March 16, said Elizabeth Griffin, CRS media relations director.

Griffin said that the amount of tsunami contributions will continue to rise as many dioceses still have not reported how much money they have collected. The Diocese of Charlotte raised more than \$420,000.

The sum collected so far means CRS can extend its programs in the disaster areas as the amount exceeds the agency's \$80 million program commitment, said Griffin.

The March 17 issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* listed CRS as the U.S. charity that has collected the second highest amount for tsunami relief programs. Listed first was the American Red Cross.

Griffin said that CRS is now trying to

educate donors to send contributions that are not earmarked for tsunami relief so that other programs can be developed in the tsunami-stricken countries for chronically poor villages spared by the natural disaster.

A disparity is developing because in some areas a poor village of fishermen unaffected by the tsunamis is not getting help, but a nearby resort village where the people are better off economically is getting aid because it was hit in the disaster, she said.

CRS is still accepting money earmarked for tsunami relief but stopped actively soliciting tsunami funds at the beginning of February, she said.

The Dec. 26 tsunamis left hundreds of thousands homeless in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh and East Africa. More than 170,000 people were killed and several thousand more are still missing.

Diocesan planner

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

BISCOE — The groundbreaking for the new Our Lady of the Americas Church will be April 9 at 1 p.m. on Farmers Market Road off Route 211 in Candor just east of Interstate 73/74 (Hwy 220). Bishop Peter J. Jugis will preside at the groundbreaking. Following the ceremony there will be food and pageantry followed by a bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving at 4 p.m. For details, call the church office at (910) 428-3051.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 3 with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m. including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information, call Paul Deer at (704) 948-0628.

CHARLOTTE — As a ministry to the hearing impaired, Vanessa Pappas will sign the Liturgy of the Word April 3 during the 10 a.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 536-6520 or Cindy Satink, (704) 573-5143.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 3 at 3 p.m. with a solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will host a *Blood Drive* at the Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., April 6, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds or more and in good

health. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Vanessa Garcia at (704) 370-3357 or visit www.ncdonor.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap* will meet at Pepperoni's Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center, 4267 Park Rd; Tuesdays in April, at 6:30 p.m. The theme for the sessions will be "Uncorking the Truth About God, Sex, and the Sanctity of Life" and will feature Father Timothy Reid, Cindy Brown, Dr. Matt Harrison and Abbott Placid Solari as speakers. For more information, contact Catrina Conway at (704) 632-8620.

CHARLOTTE — Al Barbarino and Father Gio Belanich, director of Croatian Relief Services, will visit St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., April 10. A free concert, healing service with the Blessed Sacrament, adoration and Benediction will be offered following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at (704) 578-5059.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Faith Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and Mondays of each month. The group will read "The Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese and a chapter will be covered every meeting. For more information, call Jordan (704) 737-1964 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — What do you know about Islam? Find out more at Queen of the Apostles Church's faith formation series, *Islam: Religion of Peace*, April 4, 11 and 18, 7-8:30 p.m. The series will cover Islamic history, practices and contemporary issues. Classes will meet at the church, 503 North Main St. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Theophany Catholic Theatre Company will perform "The Jeweler's Shop," written

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official says church must be committed to life at all stages

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church's commitment to justice must include a commitment to protecting human dignity at every stage of human life, said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

The church rightly is praised for its work on behalf of the poor, but when it comes to protecting the life of the unborn, it often is ridiculed, said the cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Cardinal Ratzinger was the main celebrant and homilist at a March 18 Mass at a Vatican conference marking the 40th anniversary of "Gaudium et Spes," the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

The day's Gospel reading was the account of Jesus' enemies wanting to stone him to death for blasphemy because he claimed the miracles he performed were the result of his special relationship with God.

Cardinal Ratzinger said "Gaudium et

Spes" pushed the church to be actively involved in promoting justice in the world, while at the same time remembering that justice promotes human dignity, which is a gift of God.

"When the church commits herself to works of justice on a human level — and there are few institutions in the world which accomplish what the Catholic Church accomplishes for the poor and disadvantaged — the world praises the church," he said.

"But when the church's work for justice touches on issues and problems which the world no longer sees as bound up with human dignity — like protecting the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death, or when the church confesses that justice also includes our responsibilities to God himself — then the world not infrequently reaches for the stones mentioned in our Gospel today," Cardinal Ratzinger said.

campus building will be open and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 720-0600.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — St. Mary Church 22 Bartlett St., will observe *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 3, 9-10 p.m., with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, communal prayer and song followed by a reception at St. Mary's Rectory next door. Come celebrate with us the great mystery of His Divine Mercy. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A *Rachel's Vineyard* weekend retreat for post-abortion healing will be held in at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Ln., April 8-10. For further information or to register contact Shelley at (828) 684-4330, (828) 230-4940 or sglan1234@aol.com. For a complete list of retreat dates and locations visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 26 — 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 27 — 11 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 2 — Ordination to the Diaconate
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Penn.

April 4-5 — Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue LARCUM
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

April 6 — Celebration of Feast of St. Benedict
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

April 9 — 1 p.m. Groundbreaking for new church
Our Lady of Americas Church, Biscoe

April 9 — 5 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle

April 11 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

Priest's words at consecration must guide way he lives, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The words a priest recites when consecrating the Eucharist must be the words that guide the way he lives, Pope John Paul II said.

Thanksgiving, self-sacrifice, a desire to show others the way to salvation, remembering Christ's saving work, holiness and hope must mark not only a priest's celebration of Mass, but his whole life as well, the pope wrote March 13 in his annual Letter to Priests for Holy Thursday.

The pope quoted parts of the eucharistic prayers and explained how those words should shape the life of a priest. Jesus' first words at the Last Supper, he said, were words of thanksgiving.

A priest "must cultivate a constant sense of gratitude for the many gifts he has received in the course of his life," the pope said.

"We have our crosses to bear — and we are certainly not the only ones — but the gifts we have received are so great that we cannot fail to sing from the depths of our hearts our own Magnificat," the Blessed Virgin Mary's hymn of praise, he said.

Modeling his life on Christ who gave himself for others, the pope said a priest must "offer himself as a gift, placing himself

at the disposal of the community and at the service of anyone in need."

"This is exactly what Jesus expected of his apostles," the pope said, and it is what "the people of God expect of a priest."

Priests are called to be heralds of the good news that on the cross and through the Eucharist Jesus shed his blood for the salvation of all people, Pope John Paul wrote.

"Yet unless we sense that we ourselves are saved, how can we be convincing heralds?" the pope asked.

Credibility, he said, comes from knowing that one has been saved, living a holy life and demonstrating that one truly believes that Christ will come again.

"Vocations will certainly not be lacking if our manner of life is truly priestly, if we become more holy, more joyful, more impassioned in the exercise of our ministry," he said.

Editor's note: The text of the pope's letter can be found on the Vatican's Web site at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/letters/2005/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_20050313_priests-holy-thursday_en.html.

Weaving faith



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Sister of St. Joseph Joan Romaniak demonstrates palm weaving with parishioners at St. John Bosco Church in Hammond, Ind., following Palm Sunday Mass March 20. The nun learned the art at home and in her early days in the convent. Woven palms were seen as a symbol of protection in the home, she said.

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Schiavo's death 'atrocious'

SCHIAVO, from page 1

brain-damaged for the past 15 years, can breathe on her own but requires nutrition and hydration through a feeding tube.

On March 22, U.S. District Judge James Whittemore refused to order the restoration of Schiavo's feeding tube, which had been removed March 18 by order of a Florida state judge. A 2-1 ruling by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta confirmed that decision.

Schiavo's parents had appealed to the federal judge after U.S. President George W. Bush signed emergency legislation March 21 allowing them to do so.

But Whittemore said he refused to order restoration of Schiavo's feeding tube because the woman's parents had not established a "substantial likelihood of success" at trial on the merits of their arguments.

The Vatican newspaper called the rea-

sons behind the court decision "absurd and chilling" and said Schiavo's "destiny" based on a court decision was not unlike the death sentence facing the men and women sitting on death row.

However, in this case, "Terri has not committed any crime, other than that of being 'useless' in the eyes of a society that is incapable of appreciating and defending the gift of life," it said.

"A human being, not a vegetable, is slowly dying" and instead of "provoking a wave of pity or solidarity," the "authentic drama" of Schiavo is "smothered by the indecent race to arrogate the right to decide on the life and death of a human creature," the paper said.

Schiavo's suffering recalls the "the agony of love" that comes when one remembers to help those who are "more fragile and needy," said the paper.

"The slow, heart-rending agony of Terri" is "the agony of humanity," it said.

For the least among us



COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus from several councils around North Carolina hold a \$38,329 check for "Local Forsyth Area Agencies and Schools" during a disbursement dinner at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem March 10. During the dinner, four Knights councils — Bishop Greco Council 9499, Holy Cross Council 8509, Santa Maria Council 2829 and Our Lady of Mercy Council 10504 — distributed funds raised during their Operation LAMB fund-raisers to 20 agencies and schools with programs for mentally handicapped children and adults. The Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) program began in North Carolina in 1973. The councils in Forsyth County have raised more than \$92,000 in the past three years to benefit the mentally handicapped. Pictured (from left): Grand Knight Chip Evans and Op LAMB Director Dave Thomas, Council 8509; Grand Knight Butch Tomlinson, Council 10504; Op LAMB Director Bobby Page, Council 2829; Grand Knight Bob Nicolosi, Council 9499; Op LAMB Director and emcee Bailey Cobbs, Council 10504; and Op LAMB Director Brian Sternecker, Council 9499.

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FROM THE COVER

Rededication of priestly ministry

CHRISM, from page 1

be used throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Bishop Jugis, along with concelebrants Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, abbot of Belmont Abbey, Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor of St. James Church in Hamlet, and other clergy of the diocese, gathered with about 100 priests, permanent deacons and seminarians for the diocese to celebrate the liturgy with the people of faith whom they serve.

During his homily, the bishop welcomed the priests who were retiring and those who were celebrating anniversaries of priesthood ordination.

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of their dedication as ministers of Christ, striving to be more like Christ and being faithful to their sacred ministry.

"We priests will renew our priestly promises with a dialogue of two questions," said Bishop Jugis. "The first question we are asked is if we are willing to sacrifice ... our own pleasure and ambition in order to carry out the responsibilities of the priesthood ... in order to promote only Christ."

The second question deals with the ministry the priests perform — the ministry of the sacraments, the ministry of teaching and the ministry of shepherd, said the bishop.

"It's a life where everything is placed at the service of Christ," said the bishop. "Are we willing to sacrifice all?"

A sign of a priest's commitment and total surrender to Christ is the prostration which takes place during the rite of ordination, said Bishop Jugis.

In each of the ordination rites — for deacon, for priests, for bishop — there is the prostration, the sign of his total surrender to the Lord in which he says, by that very posture, 'all is yours. I surrender everything to you. All belongs to you. Take and receive,'" said the bishop.

"The other time prostration shows up in the sacred liturgy of the church is the prostration of Good Friday, the celebration of the Lord's Passion, where the priest and deacon, as they approach the altar, are 'prostrate on the floor once again, recalling our Lord's total surrender of himself in his Passion.'"

"The priest, in the midst of his people, by his prostration is giving a sign of the primacy of Christ's love," said Bishop Jugis, "not only in the life of the church, but in his own life personally as a priest."

"It's Christ's love, Christ's grace, that gives life to the ministry, because apart from him, we can do nothing," he said.

The bishop stated that in Pope John Paul II's new book, "Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way," the Holy Father "makes a connection between the Lord's Passion and the rite of ordination. Christ the Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep ..."

A powerful and practical sign that the priest is a figure of Christ the Good Shepherd is when the priest is surrounded by his flock, said the bishop.

"The shepherd stands in the midst of his flock, as they listen to him, they recognize the voice of the good shepherd," he said.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Priests gather around Bishop Peter J. Jugis to concelebrate the eucharistic prayer during the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 22.

Priests receive the grace of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, said the bishop.

"How many graces pass through the priest's hands as he ministers to God's people, and how marvelous is that anointing that we receive at our ordination, and in which we remain steadfast everyday in our prayer," said Bishop Jugis.

"In this Mass of commitment to priestly service, and the blessing of the oils and consecration of the sacred chrism, let the example of total surrender of the good shepherd, which we entered into at our ordination, be now our inspiration and our guiding light," he said.

Also during the Mass, Bishop Jugis blessed three oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices for all of the faithful throughout the coming year.

The oil of the sick, used to anoint the ill and dying, was blessed first. Next came the blessing of the oil of catechumens, which is used during the rite of baptism. The consecration of the chrism — a duty that belongs to the bishop alone — took place near the close of the Mass. Chrism — perfumed with balsam, an aromatic oil derived from trees — is an oil of consecration used after baptism and during confirmation, the ordaining of bishops and priests, and the blessing of churches and altars.

Vials of the oils are dispensed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves to the mission they share with their bishop — the priests re-



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis pours the balsam into the oil during the consecration of the chrism during the Mass March 22. Balsam is what gives the sacred chrism its fragrance. Seminarian Paul McNulty holds the Sacramentary.

turned to their parishes, rededicated in spiritual union with the diocesan faithful.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

WRITERS SOUGHT!

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



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COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA CRATES

Fifth-graders at St. Mark School in Huntersville present a Living Stations of the Cross to the student body, parents and faculty in St. Mark Church March 18.



COURTESY PHOTO

The seventh-grade religion class enacts a Living Stations of the Cross for fellow students, parents and faculty at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro March 2. Chris Ostrom, seventh-grade teacher, directed the enactment. A second performance was held during Holy Week March 23.

Reliving the Stations



COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA HORTON

Fifth-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte present a Living Stations of the Cross for students, parents and faculty March 22. The event was part of two Easter traditions at St. Ann School — after the first-graders showed off their Easter bonnets during an Easter parade through the school, the student body and guests gathered in the gymnasium for the Stations of the Cross re-enactment. Each year, Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal, pulls names for the roles of Jesus and Mary. This year, Tim Wahl was selected to play Jesus and Allison Webber played Mary.

The Feast of Divine Mercy

April 3, 2005

*Holy Family Catholic Church,
Clemmons, NC*



Eucharistic Adoration - 2:30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3 p.m.

Benediction - 3:45 p.m.

Mass - 4 p.m.

Celebrant: Fr. Brian Cook.

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YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Credo

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 12

In the Liturgy of the Word, Christ the great teacher and good shepherd instructs us through the faithful proclamation of Scripture. The events of salvation history are unfolded from the Old Testament promise of a Savior to the New Testament fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Following the particular Scripture lessons is the homily or sermon, wherein the celebrant inspires, encourages and admonishes the faithful to apply the truths of Scripture to their lives in seeking the Kingdom of God. The homily or sermon is, in fact, a response to the lessons of Scripture presented in the Liturgy of the Word with the purpose of increasing faith.

As a further extension of our response to the Word of God, the Profession of Faith and the General Intercessions complete the Liturgy of the Word and are the focus of this week's catechesis on the Mass.

The Profession of Faith is otherwise known as the Creed (from the first word in Latin, "Credo," that is "I believe"). The Creed is an ancient summary of Christian beliefs. It is a compendium of the truths of Scripture.

It is historical fact that the Profession of Faith was not originally formulated for use in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Rather, the Profession of Faith was framed in the early Catholic Church for a two-fold purpose: 1) as a list of affirmations recited by the believer before his or her baptism; and 2) as an antidote to the confusion and doubt caused by heresy, or false teachings, about Christ and the articles of faith.

The Apostles' Creed was one of the earliest and most concise sets of beliefs. However, due to rampant heresy and theological confusion, the elements of each symbol of faith were elaborated and given further explanation. Thus, the church proposed the list of truths at the Council of Nicaea in 325, added to it at the Council of Constantinople in 381, with the final composition at the Council of Chalcedon in 451.

It was this more explicit symbol of faith that first entered the Mass at the Council of Toledo in Spain in 589: "Let the Creed resound, so that the true faith may be declared in song, and that the souls of believers, in accepting that faith, may be ready to partake, in Communion, of the

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



body and blood of Christ." From Spain, the entrance of the Creed in the Mass spread to Western Europe, where it was eventually placed after the Gospel.

Like the Gloria, the Profession of Faith can be distinguished into three parts: 1) a confession of faith in God the Father as creator of heaven and earth; 2) a confession of faith in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God; and 3) a confession of faith in the means of salvation, supplied by the Holy Spirit through the Church.

These three parts of the Creed unite to form a body of truths that establish the foundation of orthodox Christian faith and ultimately, give witness to the marvelous history of God's love.

And, as a further response to the events of salvation in Scripture and in recognition of the ongoing work of salvation in the world, the faithful speak on behalf of the church in interceding for the needs of the church and the world. It is important to note that the General Intercessions are by definition "general," that is, they refer to the broad needs of the universal church and the world.

By definition, they are also "intercessions" or petitions, rather than prayers of thanksgiving or praise. The church orders the sequence of intercessions: for the needs of the church, for public authorities and the salvation of the world, for those oppressed by any need and for the local community, including the faithful departed.

The General Intercessions bring closure to the Liturgy of the Word and bring to completion our verbal response to the Word of God. But the Mass is not ended. The Word must again become "flesh and dwell among us." The one, true sacrifice of Jesus Christ the high priest must again be presented.

Next week we begin the second part of the Mass: the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews	Holy Redeemer Church	Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
Arden	St. Barnabas Church	Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Asheboro	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m. daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Asheville	Basilica of St. Lawrence	daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
Belmont Abbey	Mary, Help of Christians Church	first Fridays following the 12:15 p.m. Mass for one hour
Boone	St. Elizabeth Church	first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
Bryson City	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour perpetual adoration
Charlotte	Our Lady of the Assumption Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday, in chapel
	St. Gabriel Church	first Fridays following the 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
	St. Matthew Church	Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 8:30 p.m.
	St. Peter Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m.
	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
	St. Vincent de Paul Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m.
Clemmons	Holy Family Church	first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 p.m. Saturday
Concord	St. James the Greater Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8-9 a.m.
Denver	Holy Spirit Church	first Fridays 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Forest City	Immaculate Conception Church	eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
Franklin	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays, 12:15-8 p.m.
Gastonia	St. Michael Church	first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Greensboro	St. Benedict Church	first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
	St. Paul the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hendersonville	Immaculate Conception Church	first Fridays: call church for time
Hickory	St. Aloysius Church	perpetual adoration
High Point	Christ the King Church	Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
	Maryfield Chapel	Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Huntersville	St. Mark Church	Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. ending with Benediction and followed by a Spanish charismatic prayer group; Fridays, 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m., ending with Benediction and followed by bilingual Mass
Jefferson	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
Kannapolis	St. Joseph Church	Saturdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m.
Kemersville	Holy Cross Church	Fridays following morning Mass until 5 p.m.; Benediction following 11 a.m. Mass Sundays
Lenoir	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Fridays, 6-7 p.m.
Lexington	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass
Lincolnton	St. Dorothy Church	first Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m. followed by Benediction and Mass. For Spanish-speaking parishioners, 6-8 p.m.
Linville	St. Bernadette Church	first Fridays at 11 a.m.; Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Marion	Our Lady of the Angels Church	Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Sunday
Mocksville	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 4:45 p.m.
Monroe	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Mooreville	St. Therese Church	first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
Mt. Airy	Holy Angels Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Newton	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Salisbury	Sacred Heart Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Spruce Pine	St. Lucien Church	first Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.
Statesville	St. Philip the Apostle Church	first Saturday following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
Swannanoa	St. Margaret Mary Church	first Fridays, 12-7 p.m.
Sylva	St. Mary Church	Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thomasville	Our Lady of the Highways Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
Tryon	St. John the Baptist Church	first Fridays following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m., except during summer months
Waynesville	St. John the Evangelist Church	
Winston-Salem	St. Leo the Great Church	

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Refugee resettlement directors convene in Charlotte

CSS resettles, assists thousands of refugees

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Dozens of Catholic directors involved in immigration and refugee resettlement throughout the Southeast and Southwest recently gathered in Charlotte to discuss and share ideas about the ministry.

Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, and Cira Ponce, director of CSS's Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte, were among the 40 participants attending the Migration and Refugee Service's 2005 Regional Convening, themed "Strategies for a New Reality," held at the Omni Hotel in Charlotte March 3-5.

Since 1975, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) has coordinated the resettlement of more than 800,000 refugees in dioceses throughout the country. MRS periodically convenes program directors from various regions to discuss strategies and report on the various aspects of their ministries.

"It's an opportunity to bring together those who provide the services to discuss problems and the creative ways they have found to address the problems so the resettlement process can happen more effectively," said Thurbee.

"It gives us an opportunity to speak with national offices about concerns and strengths in our diocese and to network with other dioceses about their resettlement programs," said Ponce.

Topics included management issues, advocacy, resource allocation and the reception and placement program for the thousands of refugees resettled legally in the United States.

Since 1975, the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office has assisted in the resettlement of more than 8,400 refugees from 28 nations and serves as a link between the refugee population, service agencies and the local community.

Through combined efforts of paid staff and volunteers, the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office provides assistance with housing, social services, health care, social security registration, school registration and cultural and community orientation. It also provides employment orientation and placement, interpretation and initial transportation to appointments.

Instruction in English as a Second Language is available through group classes and in-home volunteer tutors.

Refugees in the diocese have come primarily from Asia and Middle Europe



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis welcomes to Charlotte participants of the Migration and Refugee Services' 2005 Regional Convening March 3.

during the 1990s, according to Thurbee. But recently there has been a rise in refugees from Africa, particularly from Sudan and Somalia, she said.

The majority of refugees are victims of political strife and unrest in their homelands, said Thurbee.

"All the refugees we assist are here legally and often have spent one to 10 years in resettlement camps," she said.

With each group of refugees, there are particular issues to address in the community, said Thurbee.

Those issues are not only financial, she said, but also include support from the community such as supplying apartments, home furnishings and automobiles; serving as mentors and translators; and assisting with job placement.

Mary Morton, MRS grants and programs administrator, remained in the diocese after the conference to give a presentation at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte March 6 to solicit volunteers and other community support.

"According to the U.S. bishops, Catholic social teaching says that 'the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person,'" said Ponce.

WANT TO HELP?

For more information or to donate to the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office, call (704) 370-3277 or e-mail refugeeoffice@cssnc.org.

CSS ministries change

CSS, from page 1

Life, she says, was all about her.

But two weeks before the start of her freshman year, she stumbled. Brigitte was pregnant and single. The college career was cancelled, her future was in doubt and, obviously, it was no longer only about her.

Today, thanks in part to the Catholic Social Services Hand to Hand Program, Brigitte is the proud mother of 2-year-old Isaiah, a working mom and a full-time student. Her goal is to be a social worker and someday be in a position to help others.

As the first Catholic Social Services Awareness Week takes place April 3-9, Brigitte's story is a reminder that thousands of people in need of assistance and understanding are helped each year by CSS.

"Many people in our diocese are not fully aware of the outstanding work done by CSS," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis. "Catholic Social Services Awareness Week will provide an opportunity to inform all parishes of the great good that CSS does among us and for us."

Since 1947, before the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, CSS has helped hundreds of thousands of people in North Carolina by expanding and adapting programs to better respond to the needs in the communities, said the bishop.

"Even today, CSS is challenged to do more and reach further because of the needs of parishioners," said Bishop Jugis. "Rooted in the Eucharist and reaching out with the help of CSS, we can better serve the many people in our diocese who need our help."



A young Hispanic girl stands in front of her home throughout western North Carolina, such as Boonville, Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

Hand to Hand

The Hand to Hand Program is a non-sectarian program providing mentoring and supportive services to teen-agers who are pregnant or parenting for the first time. More than 1,500 teens have received services from the Hand to Hand program since it began in 1988.

"When the program first started, the focus was more on adoption assistance than parenting support," said Katisha Blackwell, a program supervisor in the CSS Piedmont Triad Regional Office. "However, over the years the focus

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CSS AWARENESS WEEK

many lives



COURTESY PHOTO

ic Social Services offers Hispanic services
esperanza in Charlotte; Casa Guadalupe in
migration Assistance in Asheville.

has shifted to parenting support."

"At present, program services include case management, parenting education, mentoring, transportation assistance and a peer support group," said Blackwell.

Over the last 17 years, more than 1,500 girls in Forsyth County aged 10 to 21 have gone through the two-year Hand to Hand program.

"When they enter the program, they are overwhelmed with the new responsibility of being a parent," said Blackwell. "When they exit, they are much more confident in themselves and better able to consistently make responsible decisions, and more confident in their abilities as parents."

Brigette talks excitedly about how she was encouraged to communicate with Isaiah when he was only a year old.

"I asked him about his day and he answered me; then I asked him something else and now we talk all the time," she said.

Amazed that a one-year-old could communicate, Brigette said, "He knows more than I think he knows."

Another primary mission of Hand to Hand is to prevent repeat pregnancies. The classes and in-home visits put an emphasis on peer support among the young mothers, said Blackwell.

"I get a lot of encouragement (from CSS). They are showing that they care for me," said Brigette. "It tells me that I don't need to (get pregnant) again."

Better tomorrows

According to Blackwell, the feeling of caring and belonging is a critical element of Hand to Hand. Before entering the program, Brigette said that, other than her mother, she had little support for her situation. Isaiah's father is not participating in the baby's life.

The classes and individual meetings with a social worker have changed her.

"I drew closer to the Lord and renewed my relationship with Him," she said.

Brigette said the best thing about Hand to Hand is that she never felt she was being judged by anyone.

"People can look at a pregnant



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Linda Campbell of the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office talks with Bosnian youths in Charlotte.

single woman and say, 'she has messed up her life,' but Hand to Hand made me feel welcomed and at peace," said Brigette. "I was excited to be part of the group."

Despite the help and encouragement, life still is not always easy for Brigette. When the brakes on her car failed and her telephone was stolen, she had no money left to apply for college. Hand to Hand came through with the \$40 application fee.

Now she spends a full day in class at Winston-Salem State University before going to her job as a night clerk in a motel. She is often tired, but says her priorities are in order.

Her baby is the center of her life, she said, and both she and Isaiah are "trusting in the plan that God has for us."

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Hand to Hand, call (336) 725-HAND.

For more information on CSS Awareness Week, call (704) 370-3228.

Fast Facts Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, 2003-04:

- 18,000+ people helped by CSS
- 7,249 people receiving CSS counseling services
- 1,909 people receiving immigration assistance through CSS
- 1,500 immigrants who received assistance with their income taxes
- 1,000 participants from Charlotte who, organized through CSS, walked in March for Life in Washington, D.C.
- 350 couples who prepared for marriage through CSS-sponsored classes
- 58 years since Catholic Social Services office opened (as part of Diocese of Raleigh)

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Italian cardinal: 'Da Vinci Code' plays on anti-Catholic sentiment

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The success of Dan Brown's novel, "The Da Vinci Code," is the result of a marketing strategy playing on anti-Catholic sentiment, said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, Italy.

The cardinal told Vatican Radio he was particularly concerned about the fact that the book, first published in Italian in 2004, now is available in paperback and is popular among high school students.

"There is an idea circulating in the schools that one must read this book to understand the dynamics of history and all the manipulations carried out by the church in the course of history," Cardinal Bertone told Vatican Radio March 15.

"This is truly sad and terrible," he said, explaining why he had scheduled a public discussion about the book in Genoa.

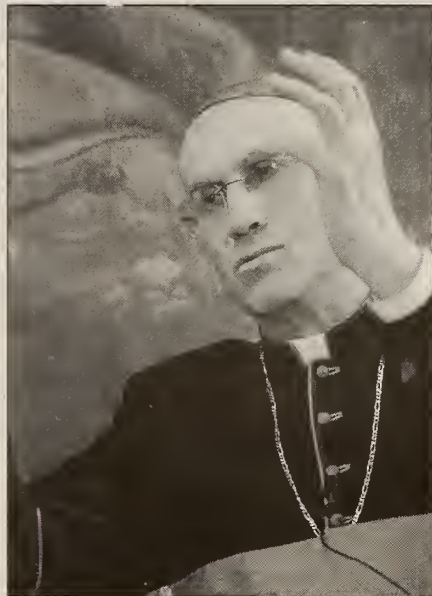
Cardinal Bertone said the most ridiculous premise in the novel is the Catholic Church's alleged "obliteration of the feminine aspect from the Gospel narratives and in the life of the church."

"There is nothing more false," he said, pointing to the importance the church gives to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the attention the Gospels pay to Jesus' female disciples, including the women who announced to the male disciples that Jesus had risen.

"There is nothing more false than the need to rediscover a — how can I say it — an 'amazon' Mary Magdalene in order to recuperate the presence of women" in the church, he said.

"The more mystifying element" of the book, Cardinal Bertone said, is its "denial of the death and resurrection of Jesus."

Cardinal Bertone, calling the book a "castle of lies," said he thinks promotion of the book is an anti-Catholic reaction to all the positive attention paid to the Catholic



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, Italy, speaks out against Dan Brown's novel, "The Da Vinci Code," in a March 15 interview with Vatican Radio.

Church and the Christian faith during the Holy Year 2000.

The cardinal said it seems acceptable to be anti-Catholic; "I ask myself what the reaction would be to a similar book, full of lies, about Buddha or Mohammed or if a novel came out manipulating the whole story of the Holocaust, the Shoah."

Part of the book's marketing strategy, he said, is to try to convince people "that one is not an adult Christian if one has not read this book. But I say, 'Do not read it and, especially, do not buy it.'"

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 3, 2005

April 3, Second Sunday of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
- 2) 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 3) Gospel: John 20:19-31

In Jesus' presence, all will become believers

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Glenn! Glenn!" 14-year-old Kenny shouted as he broke out of a circle of 48 teen-agers.

He ran across the room to embrace his adult retreat leader. Locking Glenn in a bear hug, eyes glistening, Kenny grinned and said: "I just want to thank you for getting me here. Otherwise I would've missed the greatest weekend of my life!"

Glenn told me that story after a weekend retreat for ninth- and 10th-graders. He didn't have to explain to me what had gone on or why it was Kenny's greatest weekend.

I knew that Kenny had been "locked away" on retreat with a group of disciples of Jesus and many reluctant seekers like himself. While he was there, Jesus had stood in their midst, recog-

nized Kenny's doubt, and invited him to touch him. Drawn to a wounded, open hand, Kenny touched God and believed.

Kenny's dad practically had to drag him to the retreat site. Like the other young teens, Kenny was uncomfortable and fearful. Slowly, though, he allowed caring friends to guide him — to set him up — to meet Jesus.

During the retreat, adults and youth shared stories exposing their own wounds to reveal Jesus' saving presence. They were stories of hurt and healing; stubbornness and patience; sinfulness and mercy; death and new life. Kenny could relate, and he found in that body of believers a Jesus who actually touched him and loved him and valued his unique gifts.

Kenny's moment closely mirrors Thomas' moment in this weekend's Gospel. Along with the Old Testament passage, they show us how Jesus brings his people to belief.

The community of believers gathers, in faith, to encourage one another and strengthen themselves by pooling their gifts. Because they each have personal experience of Jesus, when he comes and "breathes" life on them they recognize him and exchange knowing glances. They invite others to come be with them, trusting that Jesus, in their midst, will offer himself.

Transformed by the personal touch of God, the new believer is affirmed by the knowing community and becomes a part of it.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 27-APRIL 2

Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Monday in the Octave of Easter)**, Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Tuesday in the Octave of Easter)**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Wednesday in the Octave of Easter)**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Thursday in the Octave of Easter)**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday)**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday)**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 3-9

Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter), Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31; **Monday (The Annunciation of the Lord)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (St. Vincent Ferrer)**, Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday**, Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday (St. John Baptist de la Salle)**, Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday**, Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday**, Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21.

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BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — It's not exactly a case of life imitating art.

The characters played by the two young actors in the new movie "Millions" go to a Catholic school in the north of England. In reality, though, only one of the youngsters does.

Lewis McGibbon, who plays older brother Anthony, is in his first year at Cardinal Newman High School in Warrington, England.

“We have priests who teach us in class about religious education, and we have Mass,” said Lewis, 13.

Alex Etel, who plays younger brother Damian in the movie, attends a public school. But it was at an open casting call at his school in Gatley, England, that he was first spotted and, ultimately, cast.

Lewis' first introduction to acting, he recalled, came at age 6, when he was "fascinated by people on TV. I told my mum I would love to do something like that."

In "Millions," Damian (Alex) finds a suitcase full of money. He also has conversations with saints, who appear to him, and discusses with them such matters as what to do with the money. While Anthony (Lewis) wouldn't mind an occasional splurge amid some prudent investments, Damian sets out to give money to the poor — as only an 8-year-old could define "poor," such as Mormon missionary neighbors whose townhouse lacks some modern amenities.

"I don't really know the lives of the saints that much. It was on the script," Alex

confessed while in New York to promote the movie, which opens March 11 in some U.S. cities.

Lewis said that having faith “helps you in life. It makes you a better person. You start to learn things that you don’t know about.”

Because his character wrestles with the responsibility of dealing with so much money at his disposal — the lads never tell their widowed father about it until they absolutely have to — Alex said he has been asked questions about money. He said he didn't know whether filming "Millions" has changed his approach to it.

"No one really cares about money," he said. "You just throw it away. But you really need to keep on (top of) it. It's a big part of your life."

One thing both young actors agree on is their favorite scene from the movie: They are somewhat magically swept away to an African beach at film's end. Director Danny Boyle said the scene should not be regarded as a fantasy sequence, but as something real that happens through the power of Damian's faith.

The U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting gave "Millions" a classification of A-II — adults and adolescents — for "a couple of mildly crude expressions, some intense episodes of menace, a momentary sexual situation, religious stereotyping, slight irreverence, and a brief scene where the brothers look, with boyish curiosity, at a Web site for women's bras."

Harry Forbes, director of the office, said the “quirky and charming” movie is “ideal entertainment for older adolescents and up.”

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Many work to abolish death penalty

CAMPAIGN, from page 1

group of 38 N.C. state representatives signed House Bill 529 that calls for a two-year suspension of executions so a commission could study North Carolina's capital punishment system.

"House Bill 529 simply provides for a study of the documented flaws in our death penalty system and a necessary and finite delay of executions," said Rep. Joe Hackney, a Chapel Hill Democrat. "The bill also allows for capital trials and appeals to proceed during those two years that executions are halted."

Bolstered by this kind of trend in public policy, as well as new polling data showing Catholics increasingly oppose capital punishment, the U.S. bishops on March 21 kicked off Holy Week by launching a Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty.

The United States Conference of Catholic bishops have spoken out against the death penalty several times since the 1970s, and individual bishops and state or regional church organizations also have issued dozens of statements and pastoral letters on the topic.

In March 2004, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte wrote a pastoral statement in support of moratorium legislation in North Carolina.

"The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has considered it a hopeful sign, and a testimony to society's growing recognition of the dignity of all human life that so many societies have ended the use of capital punishment all together," wrote Bishop Jugis.

"The Church's teaching on the death penalty is based on the principal that all life is sacred, made in the image and likeness of God, and that if the innocent of society can be protected from aggressors with non-lethal means, then indeed, such means are prefer-

able to the use of lethal force," he wrote.

Recently, the bishop wrote Gov. Michael Easley of North Carolina to ask for him to sign any moratorium legislation passed by the General Assembly.

Catholic opinion

The national campaign hopes to bring "greater urgency and unity, increased energy and advocacy and a renewed call to our people and to our leaders to end the use of the death penalty in our nation," said Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington at the press conference where the campaign was announced.

Cardinal McCarrick said the campaign will include educational efforts through schools, parishes, universities and seminaries; advocacy with Congress and state legislatures and before the courts; working to change the debate about the death penalty and challenging the notion that justice allows "an eye for an eye"; as well as prayer and reflection.

Pollster John Zogby presented data from his two recent polls showing nearly half of Catholics now oppose capital punishment, a shift of about 20 percent from polls as recent as 2001, when 68 percent of Catholics polled by CBS supported the death penalty.

He said he found the Catholics most likely to oppose the death penalty are those who go to church most frequently. Fifty-six percent of those who attend Mass at least weekly oppose the death penalty, compared to 50 percent of less frequent churchgoers, he found.

A phone survey of more than 1,700 Catholics interviewed in November 2004 found 48 percent of all Catholics supported the death penalty, and 47 percent opposed it. A follow-up survey in March of about

See CAMPAIGN, next page

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FROM THE COVER

CAMPAIGN, from previous page

1,000 Catholics found supporters and opponents split at 48.5 percent and 48.2 percent, respectively, Zogby said.

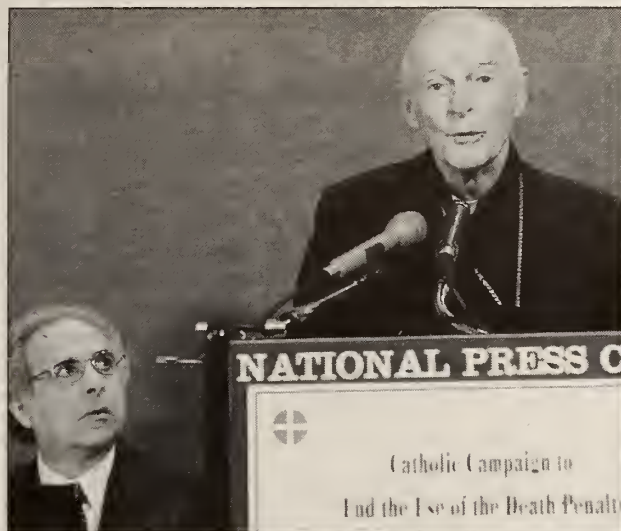
Broader polls done by Gallup and Quinnipiac University last fall found Americans overall supported capital punishment by 66 percent and 62 percent, respectively. Both the Gallup and Quinnipiac reports said those figures represented a decrease in support of several percentage points from the most recent previous polls.

Until recently, Catholics have tended to support capital punishment by about the same percentage rate as the general public.

Zogby said the shift in opinion among Catholics seems to be that they are hearing and taking to heart the church's teaching that fundamental respect for human life includes even those guilty of crimes. Pope John Paul II and the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" say that while the state has the right to resort to capital punishment in order to protect society, in the modern world the death penalty is unnecessary because such circumstances are essentially nonexistent.

"For us this is not about ideology but respect for life," said Cardinal McCarrick. "We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing. We cannot defend life by taking life."

"These (Zogby) poll results demonstrate that the consistent message of our Church, that human life is sacred and worthy of protection from conception to natural death, is sinking in and being recognized as a foundational moral teaching of our Church," said Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

"It's becoming impossible, for both Catholics and non-Catholics alike, to ignore the Catholic Church's prophetic stance that 'life must be chosen over death,'" he said.

Shifting momentum

John Carr, director of the bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace, which is coordinating the campaign, said one of the factors that seems to be changing people's support for the death penalty may be that "we've been executing a lot of people and we don't feel better."

Capital punishment will eventually be gone from the United States, Carr said, but it won't be because of a single court ruling or law passed by Congress, but the combination of lots of smaller events, such as the recent Supreme Court rulings saying it is unconstitutional to execute people who are

mentally retarded or who committed their crimes as juveniles.

Local initiatives

In North Carolina, the moratorium bill does not call for the end of the death penalty, according to Rep. Paul Luebke of Durham.

"On the contrary, this bill calls for a reform of a system that is in dire need of repair so death penalty supporters can have confidence it is serving its intended purpose," he said.

Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty (PFADP), said momentum for a moratorium has built steadily over the last several years.

"We believed we had the votes in the House last year, but the vote did not come to the floor," said Dear. "We're hopeful that we will get a positive outcome in the House

this year."

If the bill passes the House, it will be sent on to the Senate for consideration.

Concerned North Carolinians should now contact their legislators to urge their support for the bill, said Dear.

"This will not happen without people calling, visiting, and writing their legislators," he said.

"The numerous pastoral statements from Pope John Paul II and the U.S. bishops, as well as the work of countless activists in our communities and parishes advocating for life - whether for the unborn, those in hospital beds, or those on death row - are contributing to building our Church's counter-cultural message that says violence and death must not be the response to difficult challenges society and individuals face," said Purello.

"As sacred Scripture said, we 'choose life, so that we and our children may live,'" he said.

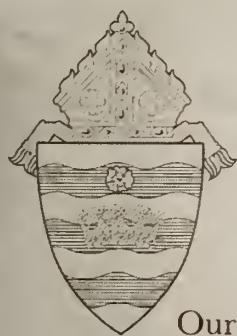
The North Carolina Coalition for a Moratorium, of which PFADP is a member, will hold a Moratorium Day on March 30 in Raleigh to give organizations, congregations and individuals an opportunity to meet with their legislators.

Those wishing to participate in Moratorium Day can find information about buses leaving from various cities in North Carolina at www.pfadp.org.

Patricia Zapor contributed to this story.

WANT MORE INFO?

Information on the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty can be found on the Internet at: www.ccedp.org.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Unusual mother, remarkable child — an Easter story

When I learned the inspiring account of an unusual mother, holding the hand of her AIDS-afflicted child, traveling a Lenten journey to the cross and beyond, I knew I was immersed once more in the Easter love story.

Several years ago I saw an article in Readers' Digest by a reporter I knew from my hometown, Paul Grondahl. He told the story of Mercy Sister Mary Ann LoGuidice and her adoption of Barbara, a young child who was HIV-positive and whose mother was dying of AIDS.

Sister Mary Ann was executive director of Community Maternity Services, an agency in Albany helping pregnant teens, children with AIDS and others. With the blessing of Albany's Bishop Howard J. Hubbard and her religious community, Sister Mary Ann became Barbara's mother, caring for her nearly five years until her death from AIDS at age 8 in 1993.

The story was deeply moving, so honest about the excruciating pain and the faith struggle this nun-mother endured at the loss of her beloved child. I related.

A few years ago I sought out Grondahl to talk to him about an astounding series he had written on high-tech prisons. I asked him about Sister Mary Ann. He told me they now had collaborated on a book and that the story was being considered for a television movie.

I got their book, "That Place Called Home," and truly couldn't put it down.

At first I thought I was reading my own story. Her father, like mine, was an immigrant from southern Italy, a butcher who owned a grocery store in Albany and never sent anyone hungry away; she went to Blessed Sacrament School, the first Catholic school I attended, and to my college, the College of St. Rose.

Her big Italian family spanned 23 years, like mine, and was devoted to children. I related so strongly to her and really understood why, nurtured in love herself by family and Christ, she had be-

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



come Barbara's mommy and given this beautiful child the home she yearned for.

Sister Mary Ann explained that Barbara "drifted into my world like an autumn leaf carried on the wind and transformed me, my family and a community of friends with her extraordinary life force and amazing grace."

Easter means new life — and that's what the child Barbara gave to the world in her legacy of having touched so many lives with joy. Even her physician marveled at how this child accepted her diagnosis from a place of utter faith in God's will and with remarkable courage.

Those who knew her affirmed she had an awe of life, was excited about God's gifts, from butterflies to dandelions to sunsets. She showed us "a glimpse of God."

While Sister Mary Ann is still "haunted" knowing that 8.2 million children worldwide are orphaned by AIDS-afflicted mothers, her work in human services for youth takes on a special sacredness because of Barbara.

Barbara's funeral was held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, my parish, the church I practically lived in until I was married and moved away. Bishop Hubbard presided, saying, "Barbara's is truly a fantastic love story — a triumph of the human spirit and the conquest of goodness over the forces of ignorance, fear, sickness, suffering and even death."

Indeed, this is an Easter story that I pass on with joy!

More info required on stem-cell research

I was glad to see the articles "Catholics fight embryonic stem-cell research" and "Stem-cell basics explained" in the March 18 issue.

Many people are confused and misled by the national media. Although your articles covered the basics, what they did not mention were the ethical implications. People must be made aware of the ethical dimension that adds to the movement into our "culture of death" and the utilitarian use of human life.

Recently I have developed an interest in the stem-cell issue and have been amazed at the number of diseases that are being treated with adult stem cells.

Letters to the Editor

This great news is, for some reason, being suppressed in the interest of advancing a theoretical promise based on killing a human being. The ethical implications of this issue are staggering.

If pursued we can expect a co-modification and commercialization of human life, and creating a class of humans who exist only as a means to achieve the ends of others.

— Marie Carlson
Ennice, N.C.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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When we became known as 'Catholics'

Q. When and how did Catholics become known as Catholics? Why was that name chosen? What were we called before that? (Michigan)

A. The title "catholic" for the followers of Jesus Christ was first used by St. Ignatius, bishop of Antioch in Syria, who died about the year 107. In his letter to the Christians in Smyrna, on his way to martyrdom in Rome, Ignatius said that "where Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic church."

At the time, the designation "catholic" would not have referred to the Catholic Church in distinction from other Christian groups, which for all practical purposes did not yet exist. It is derived from the Greek word "katholikos," signifying general or universal, which would have been the meaning intended by Ignatius.

The term has since taken on several meanings. It is used of the universal church, as distinct from local Christian communities. It also applies to the faith of the whole church, believed everywhere and by everyone.

In the period after the final division of Eastern and Western Christianity in 1054, the church in the West tended to refer to itself as "Catholic." Those in the East usually called themselves "Orthodox" (meaning correct belief).

In more recent times, those in the East who are united to the bishop of Rome generally call themselves "Catholic" as well, while "Orthodox" is used of those not in union with Rome.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



The Protestant designation is used for those who generally base their theology and ethics in the Bible, as interpreted by the principal leaders of the Reformation in the 16th century.

We have it on the authority of St. Luke (Acts 11:26) that, also in Antioch, disciples of Jesus Christ were called "Christians" for the first time, decades before St. Ignatius introduced the word "catholic."

At least in some areas, Christianity was known as "the Way" (e.g. Acts 9:2, 19:9), implying the Christian belief that the truths revealed by Jesus were not simply a set of propositions but a way of life. Beyond that, we don't know much about how early Christians were identified.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, Ill. 61612, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

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— Felicia Susi, Director, Camden Learning Center

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Those who stand with the accused

People deserve compassion, not contempt

There are plenty of high-profile court cases to weigh in on these days.

Scott Peterson was given the death penalty in the brutal murder of his wife Laci and unborn son Connor.

Martha Stewart has been released from prison and is now on home detention until August with some restricted travel allowed.

Michael Jackson is battling accusations of child molestation.

What disturbs me about these cases is what they bring out in people. Too much of it is ugly.

Peterson's half-sister Anne Bird has written a book, "Blood Brother: 33 Reasons Why My Brother Scott Peterson Is Guilty."

I've heard Stewart called unflattering names because she's spent time in jail. Even so, people with nothing better to do are rallying to walk in her shoes, trying on home-detention monitors and coveting the shawl she wore when released.

Jackson continues to be a favorite brunt of comedians and late-night talk show hosts.

I wonder: Do family members and friends loyal to defendants and convicted

felons deserve the public's consideration? Are their sword-pierced hearts, their grief for what has happened to someone dear to them reasons for critics to refrain from jeers and name-calling?

I can hear one of my more cynical friends saying: "Give me a break! You mean I can't call a creep a felon or bimbo jailbird simply because his mother may be somewhere in the world listening?!! Come on!"

My answer would be, "Well, yes." For every cruel pronouncement one makes lambasting another, regardless of whether or not the other is guilty, he makes a statement about himself. He broadcasts his own lack of humility.

Humble people are well aware of their own faults, like the Good Thief crucified with Jesus. Humble people have a good idea how much they have been forgiven by the Almighty. Humble people are ever mindful that, but for the grace of God, "there go I."

No one act represents all there is to an individual, but a particularly heinous act can overshadow all good in the eyes of others. Because they've grown to love a person, family members and true friends hold out despite terrible odds for a resolution that will promote growth and continued life.

Bridging Gaps

CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
CNS COLUMNIST



Always at Stewart's side is her daughter Alexis. Peterson's parents and others have remained present for him and were disconsolate at his sentencing. Jackson, too, is continually surrounded by his famous parents and siblings.

(I find it interesting that, while the Jacksons reportedly are Jehovah's Witnesses, it is a Christian minister, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who counsels and prays with them by phone almost daily to help diminish their anxiety before court.)

Some years ago, outside Superior Court in Washington, a friend and I saw a young woman crying her heart out. We stopped and asked her what was so wrong.

"My brother just got 40 years in jail," she wailed.

We said sincerely: "We are so very, very sorry. We'll be praying for you and your brother."

Our compassion made her stop crying for the moment. Then she disappeared into a sea of people oblivious to her heartache.

I believe people like her should matter. They deserve our compassion, not our contempt.

A youth minister is ...

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



A tip of the hat to the youth ministers who labor long and hard in parishes across the country — some paid, some not; some full-time, some not; some young themselves, some not.

Having known a handful pretty well, however, I can venture that:

—A youth minister is someone who at times feels like he or she is doing battle with the mighty forces of culture and peer pressure with a coat-hanger sword and a smile.

—A youth minister is someone who marvels at how powerful Jesus can be when wielding a pipe-cleaner sword and a smile.

—A youth minister is someone who aches for the adolescent struggles he or she witnesses.

—A youth minister is someone who rejoices deeply when a troubled teen takes a positive turn toward maturity.

—A youth minister is someone who hurts when he or she watches a gifted youth who seems bent on squandering those gifts.

—A youth minister is someone who often is humbled by the innate wisdom of young people.

—A youth minister is someone torn by what to do with confidences shared by those in his or her care.

—A youth minister is someone who thanks God for the times she or he is able to help a youngster carry a burden.

—A youth minister is someone who sleeps with a thin blanket and socks for a pillow on a hard gym floor during a 48-hour youth ministry fast in solidarity with the poor.

—A youth minister is someone who praises God when a young person moves from feeling that Mass is an unbearable obligation to experiencing it as a joyful celebration and encounter with God.

—A youth minister is someone who enjoys challenging young minds to grasp truths, traditions and teachings that are rooted in all time.

—A youth minister is someone who comes to understand acutely the power of example.

—A youth minister is someone who is caught off guard when a parent or a pastor puts an arm around his or her shoulders and says: "You are doing a great job. We are blessed by you."

Well, youth ministers, you are. And we are.

Lost and found

Life is too short to hold grudges

"Your sister just called. She's coming home!" my mother shouted with excitement.

Oh great, I thought cynically. First she steals money and runs away, turning our parents into crazy people as they try to find her. Now she returns as if nothing happened.

To make it worse, they'll probably make a big fuss over her like she's some conquering hero returning from battle.

But I didn't say that. I just mumbled, "I'll be in my room."

"I've been here all along, and they barely notice me," I thought to myself as I skulked up the stairs. What about me? Why don't I get more attention? I tried to say that to my parents one time, but my mother just told me to read the story of the Prodigal Son.

You know, the prodigal son. That's the story about the brother who wastes his inheritance, then returns home in shame to beg for forgiveness. Instead of punishing him, however, his father throws a party. The older brother complains that he doesn't get as much attention as his troublesome kid brother, but nobody seemed to care.

It sounds like my family. I do the right things without reward while my sister gets a celebration just for showing up. Where's the fairness in that?

My sister and I were in high school. I was two years older and always had been a goody-two-shoes with glowing report cards and friends who said "please" and "thank you."

My sister was the type who loved to push the boundaries to see how much she could get away with. She hung around with people who never looked you in the eye, who smelled of smoke and didn't play sports or make it home by curfew. She was the kind of kid I didn't like. She didn't like me very much either.

It didn't start out that way. When we were little we used to play games together with the kids in the neighborhood, and we'd whisper in bed after the lights went out. But as my sister grew, so did her rebellion. It was hard to watch, especially because she seemed so unhappy.

Gradually she went her way, and I went mine. My sister's path took her down dark alleys and lonely abandoned lots, eventually leading to drug addiction and alcoholism. The thing was, the worse her situation became, the more sympathetic I was.

It wasn't till we were out of high school that I began to understand addiction and how incredibly strong its pull can be. That made it easier to stand by her when she entered drug treatment or got in trouble with the law. I guess it made

Coming of Age

M. REGINA CRAM
CNS COLUMNIST



me see that she was still my baby sister even though we walked vastly different roads.

Our best times together were years later when she was dying. She was clean of drugs and alcohol, so that outrageous sense of humor was back. She always made me laugh. I knew we didn't have much time left, so perhaps that softened me and made me more willing to forgive the past and try to make the best of the little time we still had.

That's what we did. Sometimes we laughed ourselves silly. Often we cried about stupid things we'd done. I forgave her for the trouble she had caused, and she forgave me for being so self-righteous.

It was long after she died that I realized what had happened. I was no longer the whiny older brother to the prodigal. I had welcomed my brother home.

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Redemptorist Father
Alvaro A. Riquelme

KANNAPOLIS — In the first half of the 20th century, the Catholic population in North Carolina was largely a missionary group. Northern Cabarrus County Catholics, like many others in the state, had to travel for Mass, and it was partly from that need for more churches that Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh decided to establish a parish in Kannapolis.

In 1944, Bishop Waters invited the Redemptorist Fathers to begin priestly work in Kannapolis. Before that ministerial presence, locals traveled to Concord or Salisbury for liturgies. Redemptorist Father Francis Funk was named the first pastor of St. Joseph Church and was handed the task of locating a site for a church. Masses were celebrated in a private home in the meantime.

Father Funk was successful in his quest, and a building on the six-acre site was furnished as a chapel. The first Mass in the chapel was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1954. Sixteen parishioners made up



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Joseph Church, one of only two Catholic churches in Cabarrus County, meets the spiritual needs of hundreds of Catholics in Kannapolis.

the charter congregation.

With a new parish taking root in Kannapolis, Bishop Waters established a mission in Mooresville and placed it in the care of St. Joseph Church's clergy. The Kannapolis priests also ministered to Catholics at the Mecklenburg County Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Huntersville.

Tragedy struck St. Joseph Church on Holy Thursday in 1949 when a fire destroyed the chapel. While parishioners made plans to replace their church, they gathered for Masses in a funeral home chapel and school auditorium.

A military chapel on the North Carolina coast was purchased by St. Joseph Church in September 1949. The structure

was transported to Kannapolis and was assembled in time for Christmas Eve midnight Mass that year. About 120 Catholics lived in Kannapolis at the time.

Diocesan clergy assumed the pastorate of St. Joseph Church and its mission, St. Therese Church in Mooresville in August 1954, interrupting for a time the Redemptorist presence. St. Therese Church gained parish status in 1956.

As Kannapolis grew, so did St. Joseph Church. Industry and businesses have added to the congregation, and a number of converts have complemented its growth as well, prompting the need for additional facilities.

A parish hall was built during the 1950s. Modular classroom space for religious education was added in the 1980s and a parish activity center was constructed in the early '90s.

In August 1969, the community of St. Joseph Church became a mission of St. James Church in Concord.

Father Alvaro Riquelme, pastor of St. Joseph Church, is a native of Chile who was raised in the United States. The predominantly Hispanic parish has a ratio of three Hispanics to one Anglo.

Father Riquelme has seen tremendous growth in the Spanish-speaking population of his parish.

"When I worked as a seminarian in this area in 1995, there was just one Spanish Mass per month with 75 people attending," he said.

By 2001, more than 500 Hispanic families were worshipping regularly at St. Joseph Church, while about 160 Anglo families were registered. St. Joseph Church now has two Spanish Masses each week with 800 to 1,000 worshippers.

One of St. Joseph Church's most active groups is the charismatic prayer group, which draws up to 100 parishioners to its weekly services.

A bilingual staff, including Father Riquelme; Josh Gilliam, youth minister; and Sylvia McGill, parish nurse, help bridge the gap between the Hispanic and Anglo parishioners.

McGill, one of only a few parish nurses in the Piedmont area, serves the growing parish by providing essential medical services and information.

With such growth, additional space for worship was required and, on Oct. 6, 2001, then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a new 1,000-seat St. Joseph Church, built on the site of the small, white church that had served the parish since 1949.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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VOLUME 14 NO 26

In Christ's embrace

Pope John Paul II
1920 - 2005

Pope John Paul II was world's conscience, modern-day apostle

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II, who died April 2 at age 84, was a voice of conscience for the world and a modern-day apostle for his church.

To both roles he brought a philosopher's intellect, a pilgrim's spiritual intensity and an actor's flair for the dramatic. That combination made him one of the most forceful moral leaders of the modern age.

As head of the church for more than 26 years, he held a hard line on doctrinal issues and drew sharp limits on dissent. For many years he was a tireless evangelizer at home and abroad, but toward the end his frailty left him unable to murmur a blessing.

The first non-Italian pope in 455 years, Pope John Paul be-

came a spiritual protagonist in two global transitions: the fall of European communism, which began in his native Poland in 1989, and the passage to the third millennium of Christianity.

The new millennium brought a surge in global terror-

See APOSTLE, page 12



CNS FILE PHOTO BY JOE RIMKUS JR.

Above: Pope John Paul II gestures to the crowd at World Youth Day in Denver in 1993. The pope died April 2 at the Vatican. He was 84. He led the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years. Left: Bishop Peter J. Jugis passes a bust of Pope John Paul II at the start of a Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral April 3.

REMEMBERING A PONTIFF

Local clergy reflect on memories of pope

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As people flock to the Vatican to bid farewell to Pope John Paul II, members of the Diocese of Charlotte are mourning their pontiff.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass at St. Patrick Ca-

thedral in Charlotte April 3 and spoke of the pope in his homily.

"Someone has asked me what direction the church will take now that the Holy Father has passed away," said Bishop Jugis. "The direction the church takes in every age is the direction of Jesus Christ."

"The church always looks to Jesus. He is the way in every era and every day of the church's life," he said.

The bishop recalled how Pope John Paul II responded when he was asked what direction

See REFLECTIONS, page 8



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Papal achievements

*Encyclicals; women in church;
Jewish relations; communism*

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Mourning after

Hometown burdens; new challenges

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Perspectives

Local Catholics reflect on Pope John Paul II

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NEW TRADITIONS

Pope invented his own variety of papal customs

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — If there's anything Pope John Paul II loved more than following traditions, it was inventing new ones.

During his pontificate, the Polish-born pontiff filled his calendar with annual events of every variety: hearing confessions, baptizing babies, visiting Rome parishes or holding youth rallies, to name a few.

That's on top of the traditional papal ceremonies he inherited when elected in 1978. Only when his health and mobility seriously declined in his later years did he cut back — reluctantly — on several of these self-styled customs.

In 1980, he instituted the practice of hearing confessions in St. Peter's Basilica on Good Friday, apparently becoming the first pope in history to hear the confessions of ordinary Catholics.

The year before, he began writing an annual Holy Thursday letter to priests of the world, as a sign of his special concern for the priesthood and the burdens of pastoral ministry.

Visible presence

The pope liked to move around, and in

1979 he revived the practice of leading an Ash Wednesday procession on Rome's Aventine Hill, before placing ashes on the foreheads of cardinals, bishops and religious at the Basilica of Santa Sabina. The Lenten season "cannot pass unnoticed," he remarked during the ceremony.

For many years on March 19, feast of St. Joseph, he traveled to an Italian factory or other workplace to highlight church concerns about the world of labor.

"In some of these events and meetings, the pope wanted to be more visible," said one Vatican official, adding that the pope's presence gave events "a sense of a 'happening.'"

The pope also wanted to be seen engaged directly in pastoral action, not sitting behind a desk in his private library.

Founding Father

The events often had a sacramental character. Soon after he was elected, he began ordaining bishops in a lengthy liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica on the feast of the Epiphany. Later, he made an annual tradition of baptizing babies from around the world in a Mass marking the feast of the baptism of the Lord.

World Youth Day, launched by the



CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II reaches out to a man at a home run by the Missionaries of Charity in Kingston, Jamaica, Aug. 9, 1993. The pope, who identified with sick and suffering people and offered comfort to them wherever he went, established World Day of the Sick Feb. 11, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

pope in 1986, has become one of the most popular international celebrations on the church calendar. Every two or three years, Pope John Paul presided over a megagathering of young people.

The pope also established the World Day of the Sick Feb. 11, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, for which he prepared an annual message.

In 1997, he instituted a World Day of Consecrated Life, celebrated Feb. 2, feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and celebrated Mass to inaugurate it.

One of Pope John Paul's biggest innovations was his pastoral visits to Rome parishes. Pope Paul VI paid occasional visits to churches in his diocese, but this pope made it systematic, calling on more than 300 parishes. In 2002, when ailing health made such visits too cumbersome, he amended the tradition to have representatives of Rome parishes visit him at the Vatican. It was a natural choice for the Polish pope — he had visited parishes week after week as archbishop of Krakow and considered it one of the best parts of his job.

For many years, the pope also revived the custom of a Dec. 31 papal visit to a Rome church to offer a year-end "Te Deum" of thanksgiving.

Another tradition Pope John Paul brought to the Vatican was a simple one that resonated with Catholics all over the

world: a Christmas tree and a Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square, just below the papal window. Like thousands of others, he visited it during the Christmas season.

Private moments

Not all the pope's new traditions were publicized, however.

On his birthday, he usually invited cardinals in Rome who were over age 80 to a lunch and some open talk about church issues. It was a sign that he appreciated their input, even though he maintained the rule excluding them from a conclave because of their age.

For many years, just after Christmas, the pope often paid a couple of barely noticed visits to two other groups: He met with garbage collectors at a small office near the Vatican and with nuns and homeless people at a shelter operated by Missionaries of Charity in the Vatican.

Small traditions — but, like the big ones, Pope John Paul made room for them on his calendar.



CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Thousands of young people cheer Pope John Paul II during the 1992 World Youth Day in Czechochowa, Poland. An estimated 1.5 million youths from 80 countries attended the first international World Youth Day. The event, launched by the pope in 1986, became one of the most popular international celebrations on the church calendar.

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OUTSPOKEN AND REVERENT

As dominant figure on world stage, pope used his moral leadership

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II spent more than 26 years as a dominant figure on the world stage, using his moral leadership to promote human rights, condemn ethical failings and plead for peace.

He had the ear of presidents, prime ministers and kings, who came in a steady stream for private audiences at the Vatican. Although the pope's fading health in later years made these one-on-one meetings less substantive, his encounters with U.S. and Soviet leaders in the 1980s and '90s gave a spiritual impetus to the fall of European communism.

More than any previous pontiff, he pushed religious teachings into the center of public debate, arguing that universal moral norms — such as the sanctity of life — are not optional for contemporary society.

The pope's bold words and gestures won acclaim, but not from all quarters. As his pontificate wore on, his message increasingly went against conventional thinking on issues like abortion, gay marriage and genetic research.

When it came to war, the pope gave no comfort to those pressing for the use of military force.

His outspoken opposition to the U.S.-led war on Iraq in 2003 was based on the conviction that both sides should have done more to settle the dispute peacefully. He mobilized an unprecedented, though unsuccessful, diplomatic effort to help prevent hostilities and to preserve the role of the United Nations in global peacemaking.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by extremists acting in the name of Islam, the pope led a spiritual campaign against all violence in the name of religion. He convened a meeting of Muslims, Christians, Jews and others in Assisi in early 2002; the gathering produced a joint statement against terrorism.

Fighting for life

Pro-life issues brought out a fighting spirit in the Polish-born pontiff. In 1994, for example, he challenged U.N. population planners on abortion and birth-control policies and steered an international development conference toward a moral debate on life and family issues.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

Pope John Paul II addresses the United Nations in New York during his first visit to the United States in October 1979.

The pope and his aides took some flak for that. But as he aged, he seemed more determined than ever to speak his mind, applying church teaching to technical questions such as economics, biology and demographics, and prodding individual consciences on what he has called a worldwide "moral crisis."

"The Gospel of Life," his 1995 encyclical on pro-life issues that he addressed to "all people of good will" and sent to government leaders around the globe, reflected the pope's sense of resolve.

"To speak out on an issue like abortion confirms this pope's leadership in a dra-

matic way," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. "If a pope doesn't try to awaken ethical responsibility, what is his value?"

The pope's pro-life stand also virtually excluded the death penalty, and he made frequent appeals against executions in the United States. After one dramatic plea during his visit to St. Louis in 1999, the sentence of a Missouri death-row inmate was commuted.

Global stage

During jubilee celebrations in 2000, the pope continually prodded and pressured global financial powers to forgive at least part of the Third World debt — a request that added a moral dimension to the issue and helped bring about debt relief for some of the poorest nations.

The pope conferred with presidents, stood up to tyrants and preached to crowds of more than a million people. Almost immediately after his election in 1978, he began using the world as a pulpit: decrying hunger from Africa; denouncing the arms race from Hiroshima, Japan; and promoting human equality from caste-conscious India.

As Poland's native son, he had a special interest and a key role in the demise of European communism. For years he criticized the moral bankruptcy of the system, to applause in the West. His visits to his homeland helped light the fire of reform,

which eventually led to the first noncommunist government in the Soviet bloc.

In an astute political move, he cultivated an ally in Mikhail Gorbachev, whose "glasnost" policies set the stage for the breakup of the Soviet Union — and the return of religious freedom.

But the pope was also a sometimes-unwelcome critic of capitalism, warning that the profit motive alone would never bring justice and cautioning about the effects of "globalization" in the post-communist era.

Modern leadership is often a question of personal rapport, and Pope John Paul met with world figures across the spectrum. During his pontificate, every U.S. president made a pilgrimage to the Vatican, including President George W. Bush in 2001, 2002 and 2004.

The pope's door almost always was open to the world's powerful, a policy that brought controversial figures to his private library — among them Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Cuban President Fidel Castro and former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Many observers, including former U.S. ambassadors to the Vatican, said Pope John Paul's influence on world events was tremendous. They praised his political savvy, reflected less in the public realm than in behind-the-scenes efforts by Vatican diplomats.

The pope's tenure saw a near-doubling of the number of countries with which the Vatican holds diplomatic relations.

At the same time, his flair for the dramatic gesture helped make him the most-televised pontiff in history. That was a form of global influence that this pope never underestimated. Millions watched him walk through crowds of African poor or visit a shantytown family in Latin America. As the pope once said, one reason he kept returning to these places was that he knew the cameras would follow, spotlighting human problems around the globe.

Relentless efforts

The pope was a consistent critic of war and a booster of peace, and during his pontificate the Vatican issued major statements calling for disarmament. His aides successfully headed off a shooting war between Chile and Argentina in 1978.

But sometimes the pope's peace efforts went unheeded, to his bitter disappointment. That was true not only in Iraq; his warnings about conflagration in the Balkans and his horror at ethnic fighting in Africa illustrated the limits of papal influence.

When Pope John Paul first addressed the United Nations in 1979, he emphasized that harmonious international relations were deeply tied to a proper understanding of freedom and respect for moral precepts. That was a message he honed over the years, in face-to-face meetings with world leaders and in public speeches.

Returning to the United Nations in 1995, frailer but just as forceful, he again insisted that the "family of nations" must be founded on strong moral principles and warned of "unspeakable offenses against human life and freedom" in today's world.

The pope never stopped prodding the world's conscience, nor did he shy away from appealing directly to heads of state.

Visiting Cuba in 1998, he challenged Castro's government to allow freedom of expression and a wider church role in society.

In these and other interventions, the pope felt certain that he acted in the name of civilians who had little or no voice in world events.



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GLOBETROTTING FOR GOD

Slowed by age, pope refused to give up world travels

BY JOHN THAVIS

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Although slowed by age and infirmity before he died, Pope John Paul II refused to give up one of his favorite pastoral duties: traveling the globe.

Visiting 129 countries on 104 trips outside Italy, he redefined the nature of the papacy and its once-stable ministry. Earlier popes were carried on chairs at the Vatican; this one jetted around the world, taking the universal church to such out-of-the-way places as Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and Alaska.

Averaging four major trips a year, the pope logged more than 700,000 miles and spent about 6 percent of his papacy outside the Vatican and Italy.

Every year his aides told him to slow down — and every year the pontiff penciled in more trips. In 2002, despite summer heat and declining health, the pope crisscrossed North and Central America for 11 days to meet with youths in Toronto and canonize saints in Guatemala and Mexico.

Perhaps the most personally satisfying trip was his Holy Year 2000 pilgrimage to biblical lands, which began in Egypt with a visit to Mount Sinai and continued with stops in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The pope walked in the footsteps of Christ and the Apostles and made a historic visit in Jerusalem to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest place.

A year later, extending his biblical pilgrimage, he made unprecedented papal stops in Greece and Syria, meeting with Orthodox in Athens and visiting a mosque in Damascus, Syria.

Even when his failing health made it difficult for him to walk and speak, the pope plowed ahead with trips to out-of-the-way places like Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, where he was pushed on a wheeled platform and lowered from airplanes on a modified cargo lift. In 2004, when he no longer could walk, he visited Switzerland and Lourdes, France.

Around and back again

From the beginning, Pope John Paul made it clear he enjoyed being out of the Vatican and mingling with the faithful. He treated reporters to unprecedented flying news conferences, strolling through the press section of his plane and fielding dozens of questions.

Asked about his globe-trotting papacy in 1983, he replied: "Yes, I am convinced ... that I am traveling too much, but sometimes it is necessary to do something of what is too much."

On other occasions, he said simply, "I must visit my people."

His top aides said the pontiff aimed to strengthen the links between the church in Rome and particular church communities around the globe. From the mountains of Peru to the plains of India, he spoke the local languages, gave pep talks to local pastoral workers and canonized local saints.

His speeches, sermons and liturgies

often were televised in the host countries, giving him a unique opportunity to evangelize and stand up publicly for minority Catholics.

Some of his warmest receptions came in Africa, a continent where his 14 visits helped spur a period of tremendous growth for the church. He once told reporters he kept returning to Africa in order to bring the journalistic spotlight to its sufferings. A crowd in Burkina Faso held up a banner in 1990 that welcomed him as "a great friend."

In a 1980 trip to Latin America, he underscored the church's commitment to the poor by walking into a shack in a Rio de Janeiro slum and chatting with the residents. Moments earlier, in a spontaneous gesture, he had taken off his gold papal ring and offered it to the poverty-stricken local parish.

He visited with victims of Hansen's disease in Guinea-Bissau and blessed young AIDS sufferers in Uganda and the United States. These stops provided rare glimpses of papal emotion, and his hugs for the sick were often front-page pictures in newspapers around the world.

The pope's seven trips to the United States featured festive celebrations and emotional highlights, such as the time he met the 375,000 young people who visited Denver in 1993 for World Youth Day.

The pontiff and politics

From a pastoral point of view, some of his toughest trips were in Europe, a continent the pope declared in need of re-evangelization. In places like the Netherlands in 1985, he got an earful from Catholics unhappy with church positions on issues such as birth control and priestly celibacy.

International politics sometimes colored Pope John Paul's travels. In Nicaragua in 1983, the pope tried to shout down Sandinista activists who began chanting political slogans during a Mass. In Haiti on the same trip, he delivered a stern rebuke to dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, who eventually was forced out of office.

In his native Poland, the pope's early visits — which drew massive, politically energized crowds — were credited by many for re-igniting the pro-democracy movement that broke the communist hold on power in 1989.

During his 1998 visit to Cuba, one of the last bastions of communism, he strongly defended civil and church freedoms and said he hoped the visit would bear the same fruits as his Polish trips.

Yet even after the fall of European communism, invisible walls kept Pope John Paul from visiting his flock in several places. At the top of the list was Russia, where Orthodox leaders kept saying the time was not ripe, and China, where the government refused to recognize the pope's authoritative role.

Whether in Muslim Morocco, Buddhist Japan or Catholic Spain, the pope pushed a simple message through his words and presence: that the Gospel is not out of place in any country.



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II visits Uganda in February 1993. The pope's 104 trips outside Italy made Pope John Paul II by far the most widely traveled pope in history.

GLOBAL POPE

The most traveled pope in history, John Paul II made 104 trips outside Italy covering more than 700,000 miles



Each dot represents one visit to that country, although the pope may have visited several cities

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PAPAL TRAVELS

In U.S. visits, pope urged Catholics to use freedom responsibly

BY CAROL ZIMMERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In Pope John Paul II's seven visits to the United States, he continually urged Catholics to use their freedom responsibly and to preserve the sacredness and value of human life.

In football stadiums in New York and California, a Hispanic barrio in Texas, a historic farm in Iowa and dozens of cathedrals, the pope challenged Americans to rediscover their country's religious roots, which sought to guarantee individual freedom and human dignity.

He frequently quoted long-standing icons of American culture, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, words of Thomas Jefferson, the Pledge of Allegiance, and even the song "America the Beautiful."

During his September 1987 visit to South Carolina, he praised the American tradition of freedom, but called on Americans not to lose sight of freedom's "true meaning."

"America: You cannot insist on the right to choose without also insisting on the duty to choose well, the duty to choose in truth," he said at an ecumenical service that drew 65,000 people to Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, S.C.

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, and David Hains, director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte, were television commentators during the pope's visit.

Challenging changes

The pope first came to the United States in 1979, visiting Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington and Des Moines, Iowa.

He met with church and civic leaders, including President Jimmy Carter at the White House, but he also took the time to personally greet many of the thousands who flocked to the sidelines, hoping for a handshake or even just a glimpse of him.

But the pope's first U.S. visit also was not without tension. During the last day of his trip he met with about 7,000 women religious in



CNS FILE PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

Pope John Paul II addresses a press conference with President Jimmy Carter in the Rose Garden of the White House Oct. 6, 1979. He was the first pope to be received at the U.S. presidential residence.

Washington and was challenged by one of them to expand women's role in the church.

Although the pope had stopovers in Alaska in 1981 and 1984, his next major visit to the United States was not until 1987, when he visited Columbia, S.C., Miami; New Orleans; San Antonio; Phoenix; Los Angeles; Monterey and Carmel, Calif.; San Francisco; and Detroit.

That year, the pope told Americans at a departure ceremony at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport: "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones."

During a visit in 1995, the pope reminded his listeners at Giants Stadium in New Jersey not to forget the words emblazoned on the base of the statue, symbolizing the nation's initial willingness to care for the poor and immigrant.

"Is present day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the

weak, the stranger, the needy?" he asked.

And with a challenging response to his own question, he replied, "It must not."

Meeting the masses

He not only spoke to huge crowds, but addressed smaller groups of religious leaders, black Catholics, Native Americans, Catholic educators and Catholic health care workers.

In Los Angeles, he noted that many Catholics "are selective in their adherence to" church moral teachings. He said it was wrong to think that dissent poses no obstacle to Catholic participation in the sacraments.

In San Francisco, the pope ignored the conventional wisdom of the day to reach out and touch AIDS patients, shaking their hands and embracing a 4-year-old boy who had contracted the deadly disease through a blood transfusion shortly after birth.

At World Youth Day in Denver in 1993, the pope spoke to hundreds of thousands of young people and encouraged

them to bring Christ to the world.

"At this stage of history, the liberating message of the Gospel of life has been put into your hands," he told them.

During his three-day stay in Denver, the pope also met with President Bill Clinton.

In 1995, in a visit just to the East Coast, the pope stopped in New York City; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Baltimore and Newark, N.J. He celebrated Mass in New York's Central Park and various sports stadiums, including a racetrack in Queens.

In a formal talk to the U.N. General Assembly and in off-the-cuff remarks to schoolchildren, the pope urged people to work and pray for peace.

He also took an unexpected detour down Fifth Avenue to greet the throngs of people eager to see the pontiff up close.

Spreading the light

In a prayer service in Newark the pope thanked God for the "extraordinary human epic that is the United States." And before leaving, he again urged Catholics to "love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

The pope returned to the United States in 1999 for a pastoral visit to St. Louis.

In his 31-hour stay in the country's heartland, the pope met Mark McGwire, home run champion for the St. Louis Cardinals, prior to leading a prayer service for youth in the city's hockey arena. The next day he celebrated Mass at an enclosed football stadium for 120,000 people in what has been described as the largest indoor Mass in the country.

He challenged young people not to delay living out their faith.

"You are ready for what Christ wants of you now. He wants you — all of you — to be light to the world," he told them.

He strongly urged American Catholics to be "unconditionally pro-life" in taking stands against abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide, capital punishment and racism.

In usual fashion, he also urged St. Louis Catholics to take up a renewed spirit of their "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

Contributing to this story were Mark Pattison and Editor Kevin E. Murray.




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Pope John Paul II looked closely at role of women in church

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In authoritative theological documents and in heartfelt pastoral letters, Pope John Paul II looked at the role of women in the church and in the world more closely than any other pope in modern history.

On topics as diverse as the priesthood, motherhood, abortion, work, religious life and peacemaking, women were a recurring and often controversial subject for the pope.

During his more than 26-year pontificate, as women consolidated their place in some of the highest echelons of temporal power, the pope and the Catholic Church were the objects of continuous criticism about the status of women in the church.

The issue of women and the priesthood generated discussion and dissent within the Catholic Church and became a major ecumenical stumbling block when some churches in the Anglican Communion began ordaining women.

Nevertheless, during Pope John Paul's pontificate, women took over pastoral and administrative duties in priestless parishes, they were appointed chancellors of dioceses around the world and they began swelling the ranks of "experts" at Vatican synods and symposiums.

In 2004, for the first time, the pope appointed two women theologians to the prestigious International Theological Commission and named a female Harvard University law professor to be president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

Equal and different

While defending women's rights and their "equal dignity" with men, the pope also highlighted the ways women are and should be different from men.

Women and men have complementary natures, he taught, and their "diversity of roles" in the church and in the family are a reflection of that reality.

The pope's teaching on complementarity formed the basis for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's 2004 document on male-female collaboration in the church and society. Describing discrimination against women and male-female rivalry as results of sin, the document said the differences between the sexes are part of God's plan for creation — not social constructs — and that church and society benefit when the gifts of both are recognized.

While decrying discrimination against women and urging their promotion in all spheres of community and social life, the pope unequivocally reaffirmed



CNS FILE PHOTO BY JOE RIMKUS JR.

Three young women greet Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Denver in 1993. In authoritative theological documents and in heartfelt pastoral letters, the pope looked at the role of women in the church and in the world more closely than any other pope in modern history.

the teaching that the church cannot ordain them to the priesthood.

'The Dignity of Women'

The basic elements of his teaching on women are found in his 1988 apostolic letter, "Mulieris Dignitatem" ("The Dignity of Women"), his 1994 apostolic letter, "On Reserving Priestly Ordination to Men Alone," and his 1995 "Letter to Women."

But his thoughts on women also could be found in significant segments of his weekly general audience series on sexuality and on the structure of the church, his 1988 apostolic exhortation on the laity, his 1995 message for World Peace Day, and his messages to the leaders of the U.N. conferences on population and on women.

Even one of his annual heart-to-heart letters to the world's priests dwelt on the topic of women — mothers, sisters and friends — in the lives of priests.

The starting point of "Mulieris Dignitatem" was what Scripture had to say about women, especially Eve and Mary, and Christ's attitude toward women in the New Testament.

In the letter, the pope argued against outdated cultural views that God meant women to be subject to men. Both were

created in God's image and likeness with equal dignity, he said.

The fact that God chose a woman, the Virgin Mary, to play such an important role in the world's salvation leaves little doubt about the God-given dignity of women, the pope wrote.

In his 1994 apostolic letter on ordination, Pope John Paul said the church's ban on women priests is definitive and not open to debate among Catholics.

The all-male priesthood, he wrote, does not represent discrimination against women, but fidelity to Christ's actions and his plan for the church.

The pope's document reaffirmed the basis for ordaining only men: Christ chose only men to be his Apostles, it has been the constant practice of the Catholic and Orthodox churches, and the magisterium's teaching on the matter has been consistent.

Working for change

Pope John Paul took his teaching directly to the world's women in a 1995 letter in which he thanked them for all they have done, apologized for the church's failure to always recognize their contributions and condemned the "long and degrading history" of sexual violence against women.

Evaluating the women's liberation movement as being generally positive, the pope called for changes to make women's equality a reality in the world. He called for equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers and fairness in career advancement.

But he also mentioned a growing concern in his thinking and teaching: a belief that modern societies were denigrating motherhood and penalizing women who chose to have children.

While the pope carefully avoided discussing women exclusively in terms of their possible roles as virgins or mothers, he exalted the virtues of both.

He repeatedly pointed to women's potential as bearers of life as part of the "feminine genius" that the world so desperately needs as it struggles against the "culture of death" marked by war, abortion and euthanasia.

During his papacy, pope published 14 encyclical letters

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II published 14 encyclical letters:

1. "Redemptor Hominis" ("The Redeemer of Man"), 1979: On Jesus Christ and the dignity his redemption brings to the human race.

2. "Dives in Misericordia" ("Rich in Mercy"), 1980: On God the Father and the meaning of God's mercy.

3. "Laborem Exercens" ("On Human Work"), 1981: Social encyclical on workers' rights and dignity marking the 90th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical "Rerum Novarum."

4. "Slavorum Apostoli" ("The Apostles of the Slavs"), 1985: Affirming Eastern Europe's Christian culture in a commemoration of Sts. Cyril and Methodius on the 1,000th anniversary of St. Methodius' death.

5. "Dominum et Vivificantem" ("Lord and Giver of Life"), 1986: On the living presence of the Holy Spirit in the church and the world.

6. "Redemptoris Mater" ("Mother of the Redeemer"), 1987: On Mary's role in the mystery of Christ and in the church.

7. "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" ("On Social Concerns"), 1987: Second social encyclical, marking 20th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's social encyclical "Populorum Progressio."

8. "Redemptoris Missio" ("The Mission of the Redeemer"), 1991: On spreading the Gospel as the central and permanent mandate of the church.

9. "Centesimus Annus" ("The Hundredth Year"), 1991: Third social encyclical, analyzing the social situation in the light of communism's collapse on the 100th anniversary of "Rerum Novarum."

10. "Veritatis Splendor" ("The Splendor of Truth"), 1993: First papal encyclical in history on the foundations of moral theology.

11. "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), 1995: On abortion, euthanasia, embryonic experiments and other threats to human life, its sacredness and dignity.

12. "Ut Unum Sint" ("That All May Be One"), 1995: On the importance of striving for Christian unity.

13. "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"), 1998: On philosophy.

14. "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," 2003: On the Eucharist in its relationship to the church.

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PAPAL ACHIEVEMENTS

History may see pope as catalyst of communism's demise

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In the view of many political commentators, history will best remember Pope John Paul II as the spiritual godfather of communism's demise.

Although he refused to claim personal credit for the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and its decline elsewhere around the globe, the pope was keenly aware that his moral prodding — especially in his native Poland — helped redraw the ideological map in the late 20th century.

"I think the crucial role was played by Christianity itself: its content, its religious and moral message, its intrinsic defense of the human person. All I did was recall this, repeat it and insist on it," the pope said in a 1993 interview.

His election in 1978 as the first pope from behind the Iron Curtain immediately sparked interest in Washington and apprehension in Moscow, two poles of a renewed Cold War.

For decades the Vatican had followed a policy of quiet negotiation with communist regimes, in order to win realistic concessions on religious rights. Many thought the new pope would throw out this "Ostpolitik" in favor of more aggressive approach.

But in the end, Pope John Paul made "Ostpolitik" his own. He kept up the quiet negotiations, but in documents and speeches around the world he began making not-so-quiet pronouncements about communist ideology and practice.

In 1984, for example, the pope publicly criticized Moscow for not letting him go to Lithuania for religious celebrations. The same year, a Vatican document approved by the pope referred to communist regimes as the "shame of our time."

The real testing ground of East European freedom was Poland. When the pope visited his homeland in 1979, he helped ignite a sense of spiritual purpose that nurtured the political hopes of the Solidarity labor movement. After martial law was imposed and Solidarity outlawed, the pope returned to a discouraged nation in 1983, but in talk after talk raised the country's morale and political resolve.

Back once again in 1987, he repeatedly praised the original Solidarity ideals, hammered the government's labor record, called for religious freedom and said Marxism had lost credibility.

"Save your strength for the future," he told a crowd of millions in Gdansk, where the pro-democracy movement had begun.

Two years later, a revived Solidarity swept to political power in historic free elections, and European communism unraveled.



CNS FILE PHOTO

Crowds cheer in the streets of Warsaw, Poland, on June 4, 1979, waiting for the arrival of Pope John Paul II on his first visit to Poland as pope. The pontiff's visits gave energy to the Polish people and helped to eventually topple communism in Poland.

From 1980 onward, the United States sent high-level officials to brief the pope about Soviet policies in Poland and elsewhere. The Vatican never denied that these meetings took place, but denied the claim of a U.S.-Vatican "holy alliance" to thwart communism.

In fact, when the first big cracks appeared in the European communist facade, the pope turned East, not West, for help. His overtures to Soviet reformer Mikhail Gorbachev culminated in their historic meeting at the Vatican in 1989 and led to the restoration of church rights throughout the Soviet bloc.

When the Soviet Union disintegrated, the Vatican took advantage of the situation by quickly establishing diplomatic relations with the newly independent countries. As the pope remarked, it was clear that Marxist ideology was "completely exhausted."

A key part of the pope's strategy was to encourage communist countries to sign human rights accords, then insist that they live up to them. The Vatican, for example, repeatedly invoked the Helsinki Agreement and the 1989 Vienna follow-up accords when discussing the human rights situation in Eastern Europe.

Another factor working for the pope was that the Vatican's "blessing" was important to countries seeking economic and political favor in the West. As communist

ideology weakened, the regimes sometimes advertised their more liberal approach by offering concessions on religious freedom.

The pope adopted the same strategy during his historic pastoral visit to Cuba in 1998, encouraging President Fidel Castro to make political and religious reforms while urging the international community to stop isolating the Caribbean nation.

While much of the world was caught off-balance by the rapid disintegration of communism, the Vatican seemed better prepared. The pope spoke the languages of many of the region's people, and that made a huge difference.

The pope realized that the moral victory over communism marked the start of a delicate reorganizational phase for the church and its pastoral mission. In the space of a decade, he called two special synods for Europe to discuss evangelization plans in the wake of the Soviet collapse and emphasized that the demoralizing effects of a half-century of communism could not be erased overnight.

He also rejected ideological triumphalism. Rather than dance on communism's grave, he preferred to warn that unchecked capitalism held its own dangers — especially in the countries emerging from Marxist shadows.

He made a point to visit 18 former Soviet republics or satellites in the years before his death.

POPE'S DEATH BRINGS UNPRECEDENTED OUTPOURING OF JEWISH THANKS, PRAISE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The April 2 death of Pope John Paul II brought an unprecedented outpouring of condolences, praise and blessing from religious leaders of the Jewish community.

Their comments indicated how deeply Catholic-Jewish relations have been affected worldwide by the Catholic Church's first Polish pope — who as a youth personally experienced the tragedy of the Nazi Holocaust of the Jewish people in World War II and as pope transformed that experience into an intense Catholic theological reflection on God's eternal covenant with Jews and the sinfulness of Christian anti-Semitism.

Many consider what Pope John Paul II did to advance reconciliation between Catholics and Jews as one of the hallmarks of his papacy. Four moments stand out particularly for their symbolism:

— 1979. In Poland, he prayed at the Auschwitz concentration camp. He paused at the Hebrew inscription commemorating the Jews killed there and said, "It is not permissible for anyone to pass by this inscription with indifference."

— 1986. He went to a Rome synagogue to pray with the city's Jewish community. Noting Christianity's unique bond with Judaism, he said, "You are our beloved brothers ... you are our elder brothers" in the faith of Abraham.

— 1994. He attended a Vatican-hosted concert commemorating the Holocaust, Hitler's World War II effort to exterminate all Jews.

— 2000. After meditating at Jerusalem's Western Wall, he placed in the wall a written prayer to God expressing deep sadness for all wrongs done to Jews by Christians. It ended, "Asking your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant."

Under Pope John Paul, the Vatican published guidelines on how Catholics should teach and preach about Jews and Judaism and issued a major document on the Holocaust that expressed repentance for the Christians' failure to oppose the persecution of Jews.

In 1985, the pope went to the Great Synagogue of Rome. It was believed to be the first time since Peter that a pope had entered the Rome synagogue, and symbolically it marked a watershed in Catholic-Jewish relations.

During his jubilee pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the sight of the aging, stooped pope praying as he pressed a trembling hand against the ancient stones of the Western Wall struck a chord with Jews around the world.

At the pope's urging, the Vatican established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1994.

WRITERS SOUGHT !

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

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Local clergy reflect on memories of pope

REFLECTIONS, from page 1

the church might take with his pontificate.

"We can do no more than the Holy Father did from the beginning of his pontificate in 1978 than to look to Jesus for direction, for wisdom, for comfort," said Bishop Jugis. "Jesus Christ is the way for the church and also the way for humanity."

As prayers and Masses were being scheduled and offered for the pope in all 92 parishes and missions of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Jugis asked "all people of good will to join in prayer at this time."

Bishop Jugis studied for the priesthood in Rome and was ordained by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica in 1983. Bishop Jugis has traveled twice to the Vatican since becoming bishop in 2003. During his 2004 "ad limina" visit, the bishop had a private audience with the pope.

"I came away from the meeting awed and humbled," said Bishop Jugis. "It was a very holy moment."

"For 26 years, the Holy Father has shepherded the church with great wisdom," said the bishop. "His faith and confidence in Christ have inspired countless numbers of people around the world to a deeper love for God. His zeal to make Christ known has taken him to all areas of the globe."

The pope visited the United States seven times. Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, recalled the crowd's reaction to the pope during his visit in Baltimore, Md.

"The whole place went to its feet, wild with anticipation, knowing the liturgy was about to begin," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

"The people's sentiment for their shepherd is hard to describe — somewhere just short of an electric shock," he said. "Their love and affection so permeated the stadium that we all felt very much 'alive.'"

Msgr. Marcaccio also accompanied Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin on his "ad limina" visit to the Vatican in the 1990s.

"I'll never forget the intimacy of that moment with the Holy Father and Bishop Curlin," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

During the visit, Bishop Curlin mentioned the monsignor's mother had been diagnosed with cancer.

"Then the Holy Father made the sign of the cross on my forehead and, with the utmost paternal affection, held my face and pronounced he would pray for my mother," said Msgr. Marcaccio. "His tenderness at that moment, in the midst of a busy schedule, had a profound impact on me."

"During my years as a bishop, I was

fortunate to have had several private meetings with Pope John Paul," said Bishop Curlin. "He was always concerned with the pastoral information offered to him."

"What a privilege to have occasions to concelebrate Mass with him in his private chapel in the Vatican," said Bishop Curlin. "He was totally absorbed in his awareness of the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist."

"One of my cherished memories was to be privileged to be able to celebrate Mass with the Holy Father and one other priest, and then to proclaim the Gospel to the pope," said Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill and vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In the early 1990s, Father Hawker was a consultant to the Vatican Congregation for Clergy and traveled to the Vatican several times. He concelebrated Mass with Pope John Paul II three times.

"It was quite an experience to talk with him," said Father Hawker. "As a man of deep spirituality and enviable scholarship, he reflected the mind and the heart of the Lord Jesus. He was a magnificent witness; truly a witness of hope who lived his commitment to the Gospel of Life."

Father Hawker vividly recalled the pope's 1979 visit to Boston, where he spoke to the youths during a heavy rainfall and offered them the "option" of Jesus Christ.

"For the pope, Jesus was the only option — Jesus was the way, the truth and the life," said Father Hawker. "But in the culture, in today's society ... he was speaking to young people within the context of their living of life. And it was a powerful homily, especially in the pouring rain."

"He has encouraged and enlivened the youth to take their place of responsibility," said Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Father Arnsparger traveled to the Vatican to be present at the pope's funeral.

The pope's death, he said, means for the Catholic Church "a greater understanding of the holiness of life and the holiness of death."

"It teaches us to place our eternal life at the top of our priorities," he said. "It teaches us that God will continue to lead us to eternal life as the next pope takes the place of service to the church."

Bishop Jugis decided to celebrate three observances to "pray for the repose of the soul of the Holy Father" — Masses at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville April 7 and St. Patrick Cathedral April 8 and solemn vespers at St. Patrick Cathedral April 10.

"We ask Our Lord Jesus Christ to grant to our beloved Pope John Paul II the reward of everlasting life promised to all His faithful servants," he said.

Statements from area bishops on pope

The Catholic Church has lost a most faithful pastor and teacher with the death of Pope John Paul II.

For more than 26 years, his was a voice of clarity and constancy in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in calling humanity to live in and to work for peace, in challenging the men and women of our world to both recognize our dignity as children of God and to promote the inalienable rights that flow from that human dignity from conception to natural death.

He visited and encountered more people in his missionary outreach than all of his predecessors combined. He was a giant in the religious world and his passing brings great sorrow to the hearts of all Catholics.

— Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory
of Atlanta

Pope John Paul II has often been acknowledged as one of the most influential leaders in the 20th century. He played a major role in the fall of communism. Millions have seen and heard him preaching the Gospel during his worldwide pilgrimages. His defense of the sanctity of all human life has proven a light in a world darkened by the culture of death.

His death fills my heart with memories of this good and holy priest of God. May the Lord grant him eternal peace and joy. And may the Holy Virgin, so dearly loved by Pope John Paul, welcome him into the company of the blessed in heaven.

— Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
of Charlotte

To the world's billion Catholics, he was a shepherd, their Holy Father.

He was the voice of conscience on moral and ethical issues: war, the death penalty, abortion and euthanasia. Having lived under two totalitarian governments, fascism and communism, he never stopped speaking out on behalf of the millions of people who never have a voice in global affairs.

Increasingly he emphasized in his writings and pronouncements the power of prayer and his conviction that personal holiness can change the world. Above all he felt called to be the servant of the Gospel for the hope of the world.

He was never more faithful to his calling than by the witness of his own life. He inspired the whole world to see the dignity and worth of all human beings, especially

those challenged by sickness, infirmity, suffering and age. With patience, fidelity and serenity he showed us how to rest our hope for our ultimate triumph over death and suffering in the eternal and unconditional mercy and love of God.

— Bishop Joseph Gossman
of Raleigh

He will be remembered as the man who almost single-handedly toppled communism, especially in his native Poland. He was always concerned with the rights and dignity of the human person. He was also a promoter of peace, a peace brought about by dialogue, not by military power.

Pope John Paul II was a moral leader for the ages. That was what attracted so many young people to this man, even in his 80s, when he was crippled with illness. He said what he meant and he meant what he said. Young people sensed that the advice he gave them was intended to help them live happy, productive lives.

Even as his health and mobility declined, Pope John Paul continued a rigorous schedule. As he entered his final illness, he was determined to demonstrate the value of suffering when it is placed within the context of how Christ suffered for us.

He was a man of vast accomplishments. But perhaps he will be best remembered as a man of prayer and as someone who ardently promoted the dignity of the human person.

— Bishop J. Kevin Boland
of Savannah

Today we mourn the passing of this great and holy man, our spiritual leader representing Jesus Christ on earth, our Holy Father. And we also celebrate his life, a life of love, of witness to the hope and truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

He was unstoppable, a man of great spiritual energy, even in time of serious illness. In the face of two bullets from an assassin, in the face of arthritis and Parkinson's disease, he still felt compelled to travel to various parts of the world. He suffered tremendously, but always linked his sufferings with the sufferings of the Lord.

As one takes to heart the words of the pope, one can begin to understand the reason behind the greatness of Pope John Paul II, his life, his suffering, and his death.

— Bishop Robert J. Baker
of Charleston

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—Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte

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North Carolinians recall Pope John Paul II

"My greatest respect for Pope John Paul II was his interest in the values and ideals of youth. I have had the fortunate opportunity to meet several politicians, entertainers and actors, but meeting him surely has been a highlight of my life.

"My grandmother died the following year (after I met the pope) and I had the rosary that I was handed by him placed in her hand so that she could be buried with it. I was told that I would later regret it, but I have the memory of meeting him, and my grandmother has the gift that he gave me."

— David Bradin, 1995 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School

"Pope John Paul II was a very holy and prayerful man. You cannot help but feel the essence of the holiness just being around him.

"Two of Pope John Paul II's greatest legacies for the Catholic Church are the gift he has given us of enduring pain and his acknowledgement of the youth.

"Pope John Paul II was loved by everyone. He has given the world an image of not only what religion should be in an individual's life as it is practiced, but how religion is practiced by someone who is a leader in the world."

— Deacon Ben Wenning, director of permanent diaconate for Diocese of Charlotte

"I wouldn't have traded the experience of seeing Pope John Paul II for anything ... being in his presence was amazing. I still get choked up thinking about it."

— Amy Blakley, director of religious education, St. Stephen Church in Elkin.

"Never have I witnessed the outpouring of love, devotion and affection of

such enormous crowds as everywhere Pope John Paul II was seen.

"When the pope entered the room ... it appeared that he was surrounded by a special light, but it was the radiance of his face that caused that effect. I will cherish that memory forever."

— Peggy Wesp, executive director, Charlotte Sister Cities

"I traveled to Rome in 2000 for a short Jubilee pilgrimage with a friend from church. After visiting St. Peter's, we stopped in the gift shop. We had not been there long when suddenly the sister announced they had to close quickly for security because the pope was coming by to speak to a special group of pilgrims visiting. Sister told us to go in and get a seat and we could see him.

It was such an unexpected privilege and blessing! I will never forget that most very special day to be so close in the Holy Father's presence."

— Gina Parsons, finance accounts payable, Diocese of Charlotte

"I remember how awestruck each member of our group was to be in Pope John Paul II's presence. He was a busy man but still took the time to ask us where we were from and what we were studying before blessing the group.

"Although our encounter lasted just moments, he left a lasting impression on me. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to meet and to shake the hand of the Holy Father.

"My meeting with Pope John Paul II was one of the most amazing encounters of my life. I can recall my excitement the night before, when we learned of our audience the following day. I'm not sure



COURTESY PHOTO

Deacon Ben Wenning, director of permanent diaconate for Diocese of Charlotte, shakes hands with Pope John Paul II during a 1993 visit to the Vatican. Deacon Wenning recalled how the pope spent 20 minutes in private prayer prior to and following celebrating Mass with a group of airport chaplains in his private chapel.

if my mother appreciated the collect call from Italy, but she accepted the charges, and was remarkably calm after hearing the news. I was noticeably less calm,

considering the circumstances." — Sean Kelly, 1995 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School



COURTESY PHOTO

David Bradin, a 1995 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School, shakes hands with Pope John Paul II during a 1997 visit to the Vatican. Bradin had traveled to Rome as part of a class studying the Vatican as a nation state. Bradin and two other CCHS graduates, Sean Kelly and Matthew Bloch, were part of a group of 10 men who traveled to Italy from Hampden-Sydney College.

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Every five years, bishops from around the world are required to make "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their respective dioceses. The "ad limina" visits bring the entire U.S. episcopate, including bishops from the Diocese of Charlotte, to Rome in 14 regional groups.

During the last round of "ad limina" visits, which began in March 2004 and ended in mid-December, U.S. bishops spent more time meeting than praying, but the mood of the visit was set by the concelebrated Masses and individual time with Pope John Paul II.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, making his first "ad limina" visit in late March 2004, shortly after his ordination, said he was "very much in awe" at being alone with Pope John Paul II, but described the meeting as a "very human exchange and conversation."

Bishops of Charlotte pictured above with Pope John Paul II (from left) are Bishop Michael J. Begley, Bishop John F. Donoghue, Bishop William G. Curlin and Bishop Jugis.



POPE JOHN PAUL II

A chronological record of the life and accomplishments of Karol Wojtyla

1920 May 18: Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland



1929 Mother dies • Receives first Communion



Formation

As a youth Karol studies at the university, acts in a clandestine theater, writes poetry and reads philosophy, plays goalie on his soccer team, splits stone at a quarry and works in a chemical factory. It is at this time that his vocation to the priesthood comes into focus.

1938 Enters Jagellonian University



1940 Studies interrupted, works as manual laborer

World War II

1941 Father dies



1942 Enters secret seminary

1945 Resumes studies

1946 Nov. 1: Ordained priest

1948 Earns doctorate in theology



1954 Completes in philosophy • Teaches at Jagellonian and in



1958 Sept. 28: auxiliary bishop of



1920

1930

1940

1950

© 2005 CNS Graphics

FAREWELL, PONTIFF

Pope John Paul II

Leader of Roman Catholics around the world, this then little-known Polish Cardinal was elected in 1978. Since then, he oversaw the first revision to the Catholic catechism in 462 years, maintained a conservative stance for the church, and worked to improve relations with other faiths. The world's most traveled Pope, he will be missed by millions.



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John Paul II

John Paul II attends the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council, where he helps to draft documents on religious liberty and the church in the modern world.



1964 Jan. 13: Becomes Archbishop of Krakow

POLAND

1967 June 28: becomes cardinal

1978 Oct. 16: Becomes 264th pope



1979 Makes first of 104 papal trips abroad

Christ and redemption

1980

God's mercy

1981 May 13: Mehmet Ali Agca shoots and wounds pope



Human work

1983 Issues new Code of Canon Law • Opens Holy Year of redemption • Visits Agca in prison

1984 Establishes diplomatic relations with United States

1985 Warns Europe against abortion

Eastern Europe's Christian culture

1986 Makes historic visit to Rome synagogue • Calls world religious leaders to Assisi to pray for peace

Italy Spirit



1987 Opens Marian year • Convenes first international World Youth Day • Calls Vatican meeting to resolve Catholic-Jewish controversies

1989 Communism falls in Eastern Europe, pope seen as key figure



Virgin Mary Social concerns

1990 Establishes diplomatic relations with Soviet Union

Gospel mission

Social situation after communism

1991

1992 Issues "Catechism of the Catholic Church"

1993

Moral theology

1994 Establishes diplomatic relations with Israel • Named Time magazine's Man of the Year



1995

Sacredness of life

Christian unity

1996 Urges total ban on nuclear testing, land mines

1998 Makes historic trip to communist Cuba



Philosophy



1999 Unseals Holy Door for jubilee 2000

2000 Visits Holy Land

2003 Marks 25th anniversary as pope • Beatifies Mother Teresa



Eucharist

2004 Opens Year of the Eucharist



2005 Dies April 2

2000

Issues Encyclical

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

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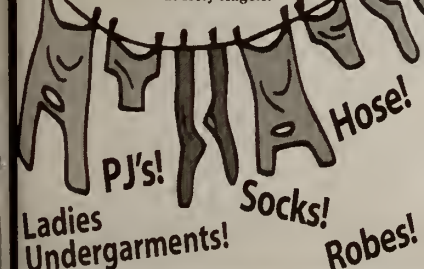
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Source: Gallup

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A modern-day apostle

APOSTLE, from page 1

ism, and the pope convened interfaith leaders to renounce violence in the name of religion. While condemning terrorist attacks, he urged the United States to respond with restraint, and he sharply criticized the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 2003.

As pastor of the universal church, he jetted around the world, taking his message to 129 countries in 104 trips — including seven to the United States. He surprised and pleased millions by communicating with them in their own languages, until his own powers of speech faltered toward the end of his life.

At times, he used the world as a pulpit: in Africa, to decry hunger; in Hiroshima, Japan, to denounce the arms race; in Calcutta, India, to praise the generosity of Mother Teresa. Whether at home or on the road, he aimed to be the church's most active evangelizer, trying to open every corner of human society to Christian values.

Within the church, the pope was just as vigorous and no less controversial. He disciplined dissenting theologians, excommunicated self-styled "traditionalists," and upheld unpopular church positions like the pronouncement against artificial birth control.

At the same time, he pushed Catholic social teaching into relatively new areas such as bioethics, international economics, racism and ecology.

Pushing forward

In his later years, the pope moved with difficulty and tired easily, all symptoms of a nervous system disorder believed to be Parkinson's disease.

By the time he celebrated his 25th anniversary in October 2003, aides had to wheel him on a chair and read his speeches for him. Yet he pushed himself to the limits of his physical capabilities, convinced that such suffering was itself a form of spiritual leadership.

He led the church through a heavy program of soul-searching events during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, fulfilling a dream of his pontificate. His long-awaited pilgrimage to the Holy Land that year took him to the roots of the faith and illustrated the church's improved relations with Jews.

He also presided over an unprecedented public apology for the sins of Christians during darker chapters of church history, such as the Inquisition and the Crusades.

In a landmark document, the apostolic letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), the pope laid out his vision of the church's future and called for a "new sense of mission" to bring Gospel values into every area of social and economic life.

Over the years, public reaction to the pope's message and decisions was mixed. He was hailed as a daring social critic, chided as the "last socialist," cheered by millions and caricatured as an inquisitor. The pope never paid much attention to his popularity ratings.

Pope John Paul's personality was powerful and complicated. In his prime, he could work a crowd and banter with young and old, but spontaneity was not his specialty. As a manager, he set directions but often left policy details to top aides.

His reaction to the U.S. clerical sex abuse scandal in 2001-02 underscored his governing style: He suffered deeply, prayed at length and made forceful statements emphasizing

the gravity of such a sin by priests.

He convened a Vatican-U.S. summit to address the problem, but let his Vatican advisers and U.S. church leaders work out the answers. In the end, he approved changes that made it easier to defrock abusive priests.

The pope was essentially a private person, with a deep spiritual life — something that was not easily translated by the media. Yet his pontificate has been captured in some lasting images. Who can forget the pope wagging his finger sternly at a Sandinista priest in Nicaragua, hugging a young AIDS victim in California or huddling in a prison-cell conversation with his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca?

From Krakow to the Vatican

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, a small town near Krakow, Poland. He had lost both parents and only brother by age 20. Even at a young age, he was deeply religious and contemplative.

An accomplished actor in Krakow's underground theater during the war, he joined the clandestine seminary after being turned away from a Carmelite monastery with the advice: "You are destined for greater things."

Following studies in Rome, he returned to Poland for parish work in 1948. When named auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958 he was Poland's youngest bishop, and he rose quickly through the ranks, becoming archbishop of Krakow in 1964.

He also came to the attention of the universal church through his work on important documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Though increasingly respected in Rome, Cardinal Wojtyla was a virtual unknown when elected pope Oct. 16, 1978. In St. Peter's Square that night, he set his papal style in a heartfelt talk — delivered in fluent Italian.

The pontificate began at a cyclone pace, with trips to several continents, flying press conferences, an encyclical on redemption, an ecumenical visit to the Orthodox in Turkey and several meetings with world leaders.

On May 13, 1981, a Turkish terrorist's bullet put his papacy on hold for several months. The assailant served 19 years in an Italian prison before being sent back to Turkey. He once claimed Bulgarian and Soviet involvement — charges that were never proved in a second trial.

Setting milestones

The pope was soon back on the road, eventually logging more than 700,000 miles. His 14 visits to Africa were part of a successful strategy of church expansion there; in Latin America he aimed to curb political activism by clergy and the inroads made by religious sects.

Despite misgivings inside and outside the church over specific papal teachings, he was warmly welcomed in the United States, where he drew half a million young pilgrims in 1993 for World Youth Day festivities in Denver.

But he also used one of his U.S. visits to focus on the key issue of dissent. In 1987, he told Americans it was a "grave error" to think disagreement with church teachings was compatible with being a good Catholic.

The pope later approved a universal catechism as one remedy for doctrinal ambiguity. He also pushed church positions further into the public forum.

In the 1990s he urged the world's bishops to step up their fight against abortion and euthanasia, saying the practices amounted to a modern-day "slaughter of the innocents." Not



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope John Paul II delivers his "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world) message on Easter in 1993.

everyone agreed, but his sharpened critique of these and other "anti-family" policies helped make him *Time* magazine's choice for Man of the Year in 1994.

His earlier social justice encyclicals also made a huge impact, addressing the moral dimensions of human labor, the widening gap between rich and poor and the shortcomings of the free-market system. At the pope's request, the Vatican published an exhaustive compendium of social teachings in 2004.

The pope was a cautious ecumenist, insisting that real differences between religions and churches not be covered up. Yet he made several dramatic gestures that will

long be remembered: They included launching a Catholic-Orthodox theological dialogue in 1979, visiting a Rome synagogue in 1986 and hosting world religious leaders at a "prayer summit" for peace in 1986.

In 2001, he became the first pontiff to visit a mosque.

To his own flock, he brought continual reminders that prayer and the sacraments were crucial to being a good Christian. He held up Mary as a model of holiness for the whole church, updated the rosary with five new "Mysteries of Light" and named more than 450 new saints — more than all his predecessors combined.

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MOURNING AND THE MEDIA

With death of Pope John Paul, Vatican changes many procedures

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — When people around the world turned on their TV sets April 3, they saw live coverage of the body of Pope John Paul II lying in Clementine Hall for a private viewing by Vatican officials.

That was unheard-of in the past, and it's one of the many ways this papal death is breaking new ground at the Vatican.

The dead pope's image has traditionally been considered something to be protected from the media, with strict permission needed to take photographs. This time, outside photographers were invited in quickly, and a live TV feed was offered to networks all over the world.

The Vatican seemed to understand that for the pope who traveled the world while alive mourning his death was a global event.

Those who came to the Clementine Hall for the private viewing included diplomats and their families. Decorum was maintained, but the mourners included one man wearing a backward baseball cap and several young people in jeans.

The Vatican also turned a page when it came to the clinical details of the pope's death. In the not too distant past, a prelate used a small silver hammer to ascertain papal death, striking the pontiff three times



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A young girl blows a kiss as the body of Pope John Paul II is carried through St. Peter's Square en route to St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 4. The body of the pope lay in the basilica for public viewing until the April 8 funeral for the pontiff.

on the forehead while calling out his name.

This time, instead of the silver hammer, papal doctors used an electrocardiogram to make sure the pope was dead. Then the Vatican released the full contents of the death certificate, an unprecedented move.

The pope's wide popularity in life created a logistical problem for the Vatican

when he was on his deathbed: Tens of thousands of the faithful streamed to St. Peter's Square to pray.

The first night, the Vatican closed the square, but it was opened on the two successive nights. Vatican officials joined the prayer vigils, improvising from the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

These were moments that no one had scripted. The night the pope died, the small group of Vatican officials stood on the steps

and looked at each other briefly to decide what to do, then announced the pope's death to the crowd.

Most of the tens of thousands who came to pray at the Vatican were young people. On lampposts, column bases and TV screen stands, they began leaving flowers, candles, personal notes and drawings as remembrances to the pope. The usually strict authorities allowed these homemade shrines to grow and were careful to leave them in place.

The pope's death was announced to journalists in an unprecedented way — in an e-mail. That created confusion in the press office, where several dozen reporters were preparing to spend another night April 2. Most had been expecting a personal announcement by the director of the Vatican press office, Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

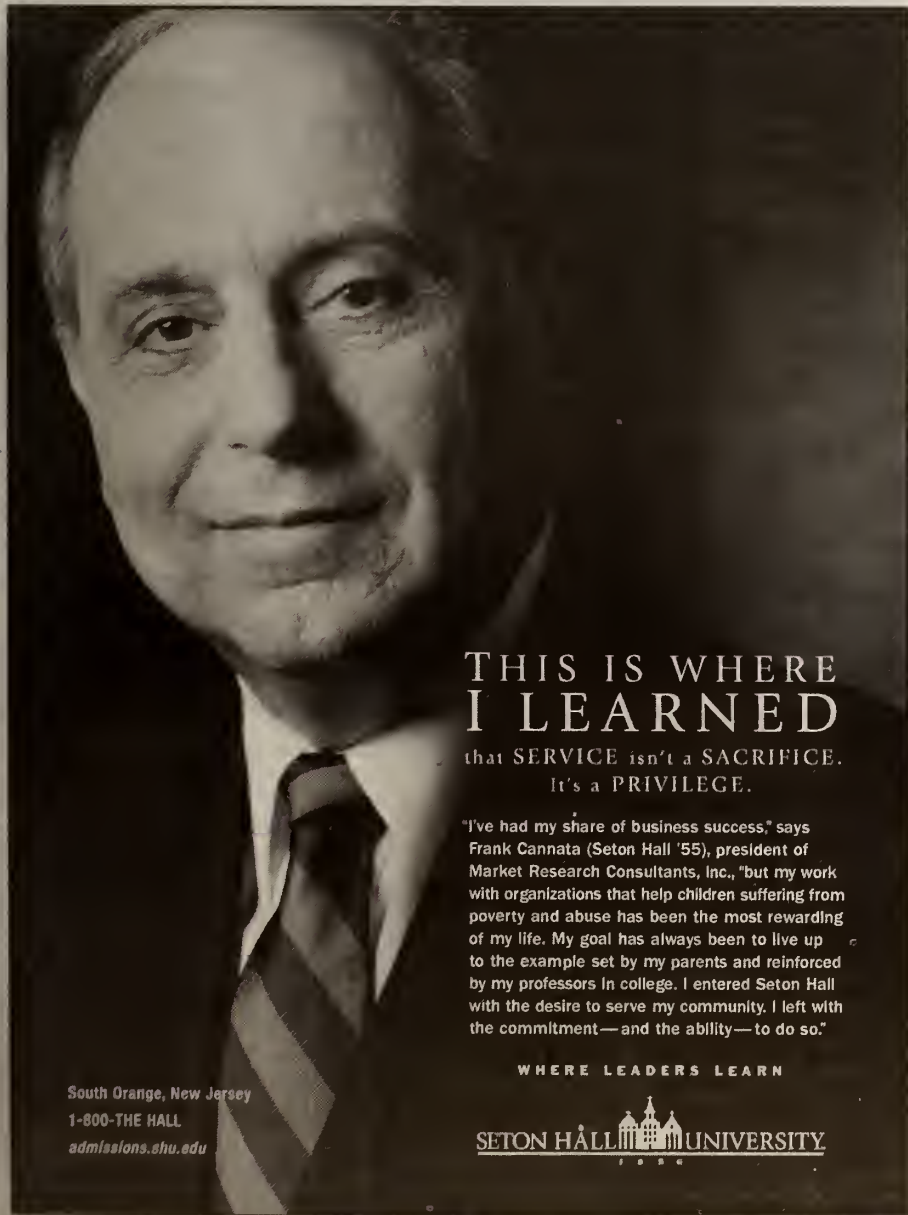
For years, the Vatican has had an arrangement with major agencies, including Catholic News Service, whenever there is big news: A cell-phone alert tells them to check their e-mail inboxes for an urgent Vatican statement.

So after the pope died, reporters' cell phones beeped and the e-mailed death announcement began appearing less than a minute later — or longer, depending on the order of arrival.

In fact, chaos reigned in the press office for several minutes; those who had not received an e-mail pleaded desperately for confirmation from the agencies that did.

The Vatican spokesman showed up much later, to fill in the details.

In the Internet age, which was born during Pope John Paul's pontificate, the Vatican also marked his passing by changing its home page to the theme of "Sede Vacante" ("Vacant See.") The site featured an elaborate series of pages detailing the highlights of Pope John Paul's life and papacy.




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Missionaries of Charity already praying to Pope John Paul, nun says

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CALCUTTA, India — The Missionaries of Charity nuns have already started praying to Pope John Paul II, according to their superior.

"We are not only continuing to pray for him, but also have already started praying to him," said Sister Nirmala Joshi, who succeeded Blessed Teresa of Calcutta as head of the congregation.

The late pope developed "a spiritual friendship" with Mother Teresa, who launched the congregation in 1950 to work among the poorest of the poor. He beatified her in 2003, just six years after her death in 1997.

All Missionaries of Charity houses around the world are praying to the pope, Sister Nirmala told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, April 3.

The nuns had begun praying intensively for the pope as news spread of his worsening health. Sister Nirmala said they first prayed for his recovery, but when they realized "that was not to be, they prayed for all the graces the Holy Father may need to accept God's will."

The 84-year pope's health deteriorated sharply April 1, with a high fever brought on by a urinary tract infection. He died April 2 in Rome.

"We thank God for the gift of our Holy Father. We pray for the repose of his soul and ask him to pray for us, for he is much more powerful now being in heaven," Sister Nirmala said.

Hundreds — including a crowd of journalists and television crews — attended a Mass for the pope April 3 at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse.

Sister Nirmala said she would at-

tend the pope's funeral April 8 at the Vatican. She said she had met Pope John Paul many times after Mother Teresa's death and during the founder's beatification process.

"They were beautiful memories, each a special memory," said the nun, who converted from Hinduism as a young adult.

Her most memorable memory, Sister Nirmala later told UCA News, was when the pope called her by name, "Sister Nirmala, Missionaries of Charity," when she was in a crowd.

She said the pope would "continue in heaven what he started here — a life of tremendous love for God and the whole of humanity."

Asked if Pope John Paul's death would be a setback to Mother Teresa's canonization process, Sister Nirmala said: "No, it is God's work. Moreover, with the pope in heaven, it will be speeded up."

In Mother Teresa's case, Pope John Paul waived the normal five-year waiting period to begin the canonization process.

Sister Nirmala said the late pope gave her congregation a home inside the Vatican, where the nuns now manage a shelter for women, a convent and a soup kitchen. The pope also gave them another home, also on Vatican property, where they care for unwed mothers.

Inside the Calcutta motherhouse chapel, a photograph of the pope was placed under a huge image of Jesus hanging beside the altar.

Someone had drawn on the blackboard outside the chapel a cross and lilies with the words, "Our dear Holy Father went home to God — 9:37 p.m. (Rome time) and 1:07 a.m. (Indian time)."



CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II greets Mother Teresa of Calcutta at the Vatican in June 1997. The nun, who devoted her life to the care of Calcutta's poor in India and founded the Missionaries of Charity, was beatified by the pope Oct. 19, 2003. The process leading up to her beatification was the shortest in modern history.

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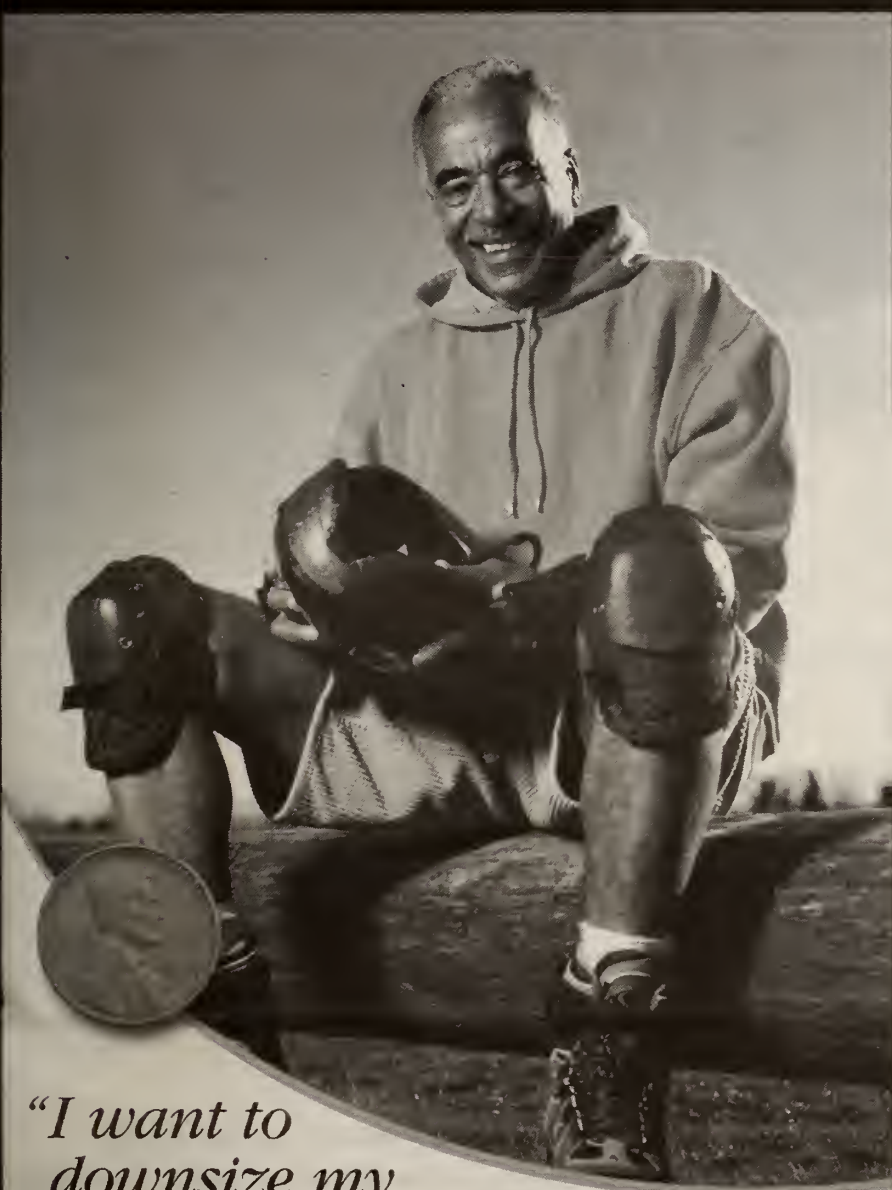
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HOMETOWN HERO

In pope's hometown, local residents 'bear the burdens of loss'

BY JONATHAN LUXMOOE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WADOWICE, Poland — The rector of the main basilica in Pope John Paul II's hometown has urged residents to be "strong with hope and faith" in order to "bear the burdens of loss" after the pope's death.

"While praying especially hard, we must also learn to use the freedom he gave us," Father Jakub Gil told mourners at evening Mass in the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice April 3.

"We are afraid now of daily life without the pope, who watched over us, just like Christ on the Mount of Olives. We are afraid that, without the Holy Father, we will be unable to cope," he said.

"At the last moment of his life, he was with us," Father Gil told parishioners. "In his hour of death he remembered his hometown."

Up to 10,000 people remained in the town's main John Paul II Square throughout the day after an all-night vigil that followed news of the pontiff's death.

A family friend, Zofia Silkowska, whose father attended the same school as the pope and died last November, said other friends of the pontiff were in mourning.

"We can't close ourselves in pain — when we look at other people, we should realize our problems are only minor," Silkowska told Poland's Zycie daily April 4. "The pope is no longer with us, but his wisdom still is. We should remember his words and live them out."

A Passionist sister told Catholic News Service that local priests said an extraordinary number of people received Communion after the pope died and that the basilica had received a steady stream of visitors.

All cultural and sporting events in the town were canceled; local schools sent children home early March 31 after news of the pope's worsening health.

News of the pontiff's death was met by the tolling of church bells.

A mother comforted her sobbing teenage daughter outside the basilica, telling her the pope "will still be with us."

Meanwhile, an elderly woman said Wadowice residents had prepared themselves for the pope's death, but were still reacting in shock.

"We knew it would end some day, but it's still hard for us to accept the news," she said.

For the third day, police kept vehicles out of the town's main square, where road signs point to nearby Auschwitz and Bielsko-Biala, in whose hospital the pope's brother died of scarlet fever in 1933.

The square's council building, decorated with pictures of the then-Karol Wojtyla as a child and seminarian, carried a banner stating "Wadowice council — always faithful to John Paul II."

A 12-year-old boy at Wadowice's secondary school said he and his friends were all "very sad" and that they had attended church several times since news of the pope's death.

Milena Kopczyk, 20, said local people were "proud and amazed" that their town had produced a pope and said Wadowice would always be a "very special place."

"His heart has always been with us," she said.

"People will learn to cope with their loss," she said. "After this long and painful goodbye, they'll also remember him as he once was — strong, robust and healthy."

Father Gil told Poland's national daily Rzeczpospolita April 3 that he has played the role of "spiritual leader" for Wadowice residents.

"I feel I'm bearing the pain and suffering of others — it's a cross that will be less heavy the more people share it with me," he said.

Rzeczpospolita said many Wadowice inhabitants had recalled their last pilgrimage to Rome in March, adding that the pope's last public words in Polish from his clinic window had been "witam Wadowice" ("welcome Wadowice").

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Next pope to face challenges over priests, governance, missions

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Although Pope John Paul II leaves behind a legacy of pastoral accomplishments, his successor will also face a number of challenges in areas of church governance, missionary strategies and priestly ministry.

The challenges are expected to loom large in the cardinals' daily discussions ahead of the conclave, where they will assess church priorities and begin to look at potential papal candidates.

Some of the discussion will focus on unfinished papal business, such as the ongoing tension between dialogue and mission, especially in countries where Christians are a minority.

The cardinals are also expected to examine ways to improve lay formation and counter dissent on church teachings about sexuality and marriage, and they will no doubt take a close look at the increasing pastoral burden on priests and the implications for the church's 1.08 billion members.

Based on interviews, speeches and cardinals' meetings in recent years, here are five themes that many see as crucial for the next pope:

— **Collegiality and church governance.** At almost every major meeting of bishops and cardinals in recent years — most notably at the last discussion assembly of cardinals in 2001 — some of the most interesting debate was on how the universal church relates to local churches.

It is clear that some bishops are not completely happy with the level of cooperation they receive from offices of the Roman Curia. They have asked for more input on things like selection of bishops and preparation of Vatican documents and more flexibility in matters like liturgical translations.

Some think the Synod of Bishops should be overhauled to make it a more open and influential forum for discussion. Others note that Pope John Paul was never much of a hands-on manager of Vatican affairs; they say the church would be well served by someone able to pull the reins of the Roman Curia when necessary.

— **"Clash of civilizations."** This clash is not the tensions between the Muslim world and the West, but what cardinals see as the growing gap between popular Western culture and traditional Christian values.

Cardinals meeting in 2001 spoke candidly about the difficulty of proclaiming the Gospel in pluralistic societies where religion is no longer passed on from generation to generation. The phenomenon is internal as well as external, since many Catholics do not understand or accept church teachings on some controversial issues.

Church leaders say the problem is especially evident in European and North American society; they point to legal abortion, a growing acceptance of euthanasia and legislative efforts to approve same-sex marriage.

But the issue also resonates among cardinals from developing countries, where sterilization and contraception campaigns have drawn sharp church criticism. Some fear globalization is helping to spread secular values to the Third World.

Many church leaders believe Pope John Paul did a good job spelling out the moral arguments behind church teachings and drawing clear lines on dissent. They say the challenge that remains is to educate the Catholic laity and encourage them to accept and live those teachings, which will ultimately have a greater social impact than pronouncements by the hierarchy.

— **Mission, witness and dialogue.** In the second half of Pope John Paul's pontificate, the Vatican emphasized that evangelization means proclaiming Jesus Christ as the unique savior, even in places where Christians are a small minority.

Many local bishops would place the emphasis elsewhere — on dialogue and witness as the most effective ways of communicating the Christian faith. That is especially true in Asia, a continent considered prime evangelizing terrain but where efforts to date have been somewhat disappointing to the Vatican.

The debate has taken on a new dimension in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001,

attacks and the so-called "war on terrorism," as minority Christian communities try to achieve or maintain legal rights in countries where Muslim fundamentalism is spreading.

Given all that, the cardinals' assessment on this issue could have important consequences for the future path of interreligious and ecumenical dialogue.

— **Ordained ministry.** Under Pope John Paul, the pastoral burden on priests increased dramatically; there was one priest for every 1,800 Catholics in 1978, and about one priest for every 2,700 Catholics in 2005.

The ratio was even higher in many developing countries, where some Catholics have had to go without Mass or the sacraments for weeks at a time.

The situation has led a number of bishops to ask that the Vatican consider relaxing the priestly celibacy rule in the Western church. Few if any church leaders believe that the next pope will consider women's ordination as an option, since Pope John Paul ruled it out in a definitive way.

A separate but related issue is the selection of priesthood candidates, which drew particular attention after the sex abuse scandals of recent years. Two Vatican documents long under preparation — one on psychological screening of seminary candidates and another on homosexuality — were left in suspension by the pope's death.

— **Bioethics.** The moral questions raised by the rapid advances in science and technology are expected to multiply during the next papacy.

While church teaching on the sanctity of life is clear, some of the issues — such as genetic therapy — involve complex questions of personal identity and biological integrity that theologians are only beginning to examine.

Pope John Paul responded by identifying practices and attitudes that threaten human life and by creating the Pontifical Academy for Life. A new pope may want to raise the academy's profile and increase the level of expertise at the Vatican.

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IN THE INTERREGNUM

Pope John Paul II's death sets in motion period of transition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The death of Pope John Paul II set in motion a complicated period of transition, an interval marked by mourning, a slowdown in Vatican operations and the election of a new pope.

Regulated by ancient traditions and recent rules, the period between popes — known by the Latin term "interregnum" — began moments after the pope's death April 1.

It ends when the College of Cardinals, meeting in a closed-door conclave, chooses a successor and announces it to the world. That could come as early as 15 days after the pope's death or, if the conclave drags on, it could be much later.

The rules governing the interregnum are matters of church law, not dogma, and were last revised by Pope John Paul in a 1996 apostolic constitution.

The document confirmed that as long as the Holy See is vacant, the universal church is governed by the College of Cardinals, which cannot, however, make decisions normally reserved to the pope. Such matters must be postponed until the new pope is elected.

And until there is a pope, the Roman Curia — the Vatican's network of administrative offices — loses most of its cardinal supervisors and cannot handle any new business.

The College of Cardinals is to deal solely with "ordinary business and matters which cannot be postponed." At present,

there are 183 cardinals, and all of them were asked to meet in Rome to help administer the transition period.

The College of Cardinals does this through two structures: a general congregation, in which all the cardinals were to begin meeting daily; and a particular four-member congregation, consisting of the chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, and a rotating team of three cardinal assistants.

Only those cardinals under age 80 — a total of 117 — will be eligible to vote in the coming conclave.

As chamberlain, Cardinal Martinez Somalo is to administer the goods and temporal rights of the Holy See until the election of a new pope. His duties also included verifying the pope's death, sealing the pope's private rooms, taking possession of papal palaces at the Vatican and elsewhere, and informing leading churchmen of the pope's death.

He also was to make arrangements for Pope John Paul's burial, unless the pope left his own instructions in this regard.

Meanwhile, the dean of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, had the duty of informing the other cardinals of the pope's death and convoking them for the first congregations, as well as informing the diplomatic corps and the heads of nations.

The cardinals in charge of major Vatican departments have lost their posi-



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Cardinals are pictured behind a screen as they gather in the Sistine Chapel for the conclave of October 1978. The College of Cardinals has been asked to meet in Rome to help administer the transition period until a new pope is elected.

tions with the death of the pope, although they may be brought back to their jobs by the next pontiff. During the interregnum, most curial offices are to be overseen by the secretaries of each department, who are generally bishops.

Thus the Roman Curia keeps functioning, but at a slower pace.

Pope John Paul's apostolic constitution instructed the Curia to avoid action on "serious or controverted matters," so that the next pope will have a free hand in dealing with these issues. The Vatican's tribunals continue to process marriage and other cases, and the Vatican's diplomatic representatives remain in place.

One of the first items that will face the College of Cardinals when it meets in daily congregations is arranging for the pope's

body to be taken to St. Peter's Basilica to be exposed for homage by the faithful. It also sets the time for the funeral rites, which are celebrated for nine consecutive days, with burial to take place between the fourth and sixth day after death.

All cardinals take an oath to maintain strict secrecy regarding everything related to the conclave, even after it is over.

The cardinal electors are to begin the conclave 15 to 20 days after the pope's death. All are expected to arrive in Rome by that time, unless a serious reason is presented.

The word conclave comes from Latin, meaning literally "with key," and reflects the previous tradition of locking the cardinals in an area where they would spend day and night until the new pope's election.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The life and death of 'John Paul the Great'

SUFFERING, DEVOTION ARE EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW

Pope John Paul II was my pope because he was the head of my church, the church of the Apostles. He was my pope because he was the pope for all people; he brought Christ to the entire world. And he was my pope because, like him, I have a Polish heritage.

From the beginning of his papacy, Pope John Paul brought life and vigor into the church. He reached out to young and old alike, reached out to all peoples of all nations and all religions; he was the man for our times in which much controversy exists over morals, or the lack thereof.

To this end, the pope spoke for the weakest of the weak. He spoke for the culture of life as he tried to protect human life in all its stages from conception to natural death. To him, all life was precious. And he lived his own life with dignity until his death.

For a little over two weeks, the world was fed wall-to-wall coverage of two deaths. The first death was directed by the world — human law took precedence over natural law and the law of God when it decreed that Terri Shiavo must be put to death by starvation and dehydration. This woman was not sick. She was not being kept alive by machines. She was merely in need of food and water and she became a bother to the cold world because her quality of life did not meet its standards.

She was no longer to be tolerated by this world of power and greed. Therefore, she was cruelly murdered by the crassness of the world as she was deprived of those necessities that must be afforded to all life. However, her silent suffering spoke volumes to the very world that condemned her as she demonstrated that it was her desire to live her life to the fullest, especially during her last 13 days.

The second death was that of Pope John Paul II, whose suffering started in 1981 with his attempted assassination. And he carried that accumulating suffering with dignity and honor, including the insertion of a feeding tube denied by law to Terri Shiavo.

In so doing, the pope demonstrated to the world that suffering should not be shunned; revealed how the sufferer should suffer for and with Christ; showed the world that suffering was redemptive and salvific as he suffered in

Guest Column

DEACON
GERALD POTKAY
GUEST COLUMNIST



reparation for the sins of the world that despises those who have a less-than-perfect quality of life; and displayed his selflessness by joining his personal suffering to the Cross of Christ.

Thus, Pope John Paul, in imitation of Christ, gave all of humanity the perfect example to follow.

In the 1930s, a young nun, known today as St. Faustina Kowalska, in Krakow, Poland, had visions of Jesus, who revealed himself as Divine Mercy. One of the requests that Jesus made was to have a feast day for him under the title of Divine Mercy.

It was a little-known Polish bishop by the name of Karol Wojtyla who took on the cause of Divine Mercy. Years later, after he became known as Pope John Paul II, he made the second Sunday of Easter the feast of Divine Mercy.

Because of his devotion to the Blessed Mother, Pope John Paul also changed the rosary by adding the five Mysteries of Light. These took into consideration important events that occurred between the start of the ministry of Jesus and his Passion.

On his deathbed, just before he died, on the first Saturday of the month dedicated to the Blessed Mother and on the vigil of the feast of Divine Mercy, Pope John Paul said, "I have gone to you. Now I am waiting and you have come to me."

News commentators refer these words to the youth who were gathered to pray for him during his last hours. But it seems more likely that the pope was talking to and about Jesus and our Blessed Mother who promised faithful disciples that they would come to escort all those who encouraged devotion to Divine Mercy and to the rosary through the threshold of heaven.

Now is the time to say goodbye to our pope, 'John Paul the Great.' It is time to honor this saint among saints for his continuous celebration of life and for all those things he accomplished for the church and the entire world throughout his 26 years as pontifex maximus.

Deacon Potkay is permanent deacon at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville.

Pope John Paul II's teaching moment in the Carolinas

Positive messages on Catholicism abound then and now

Media relations means supplying news organizations with information and answering relevant questions; in my case, about the Catholic faith and the Diocese of Charlotte.

It's often a little like juggling a live chicken, an axe and a bowling ball. Media relations are important because in the wired world, the media is the gathering place for our grief. We watched as a single, worldwide community as Pope John Paul II lay gravely ill and then died.

This week we are immersed in news stories about our faith. All over the diocese, priests and the faithful have been contacted by news organizations with questions about the Holy Father, our faith and the future.

Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, called Monday to tell me of his plans to attend the Holy Father's funeral in Rome. With his permission, I called several news organizations. Usually it takes several attempts to interest a reporter in a story about our church. In this case, the reporters jumped on the idea and immediately called Father Arnsparger's cell phone.

This week all things Catholic are "in" as far as the media is concerned. What a teaching moment for us!

Catholicism hasn't been this "cool" to non-Catholics in the Carolinas since 1987, when a supercharged Pope John Paul II event took place in Columbia, S.C. His Holiness made a brief visit to the University of South Carolina, and then led an ecumenical service at Williams-Brice Stadium before 70,000 people.

At the time, I was a television reporter in Charlotte. Over the 14-month period between the announcement and the event, I made myself the station expert on all things Catholic. My reward was to be the station's anchor for the

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



coverage in Columbia.

I was joined in the skybox anchor booth by Father Frank O'Rourke, then-director of diocesan parish life and worship and current pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. An expert commentator, Father O'Rourke helped us understand that the Holy Father was reaching out to people of all faiths with the eternal message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The thing that surprised me the most about seeing in person Pope John Paul II was his small physical stature. Like most Catholics, I've always viewed him as a giant of a person, but physically he was not very tall or imposing.

He spoke for about 20 minutes in a gravelly, accented voice that was a little hard to understand. But his message, which centered on Christian unity and the importance of marriage and the family, ended with a quote from Scripture that gave everyone in attendance at the stadium and watching on TV some homework: "Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is brother and sister and mother to me" (Mt 12:50).

In a papal reign full of teaching moments, this one touched the people of God in the Carolinas.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte.



COURTESY PHOTO

David Hains (left), then-WSOC-TV field anchor and current director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte; Bill Walker, WSOC-TV anchor; and Father Frank O'Rourke, then-director of diocesan parish life and worship and current pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, share a light moment during coverage of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Columbia, S.C., on Sept. 12, 1987.

Inspiration and example

A seminarian's perspective on the death of Pope John Paul II

On Saturday, April 2, the seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte gathered in Latrobe, Pa., with Bishop Peter J. Jugis for the ordination of two Charlotte seminarians as transitional deacons. The day proved to be historic because of the death of Pope John Paul II. It was in God's divine providence that the seminarians were all together on this life-changing day.

Most of us have experienced only this one pope. He has been an inspiration and example for us, and nearly every seminarian I know would say that the pope had a part in his decision to enter the seminary and persevere.

I know that this is true for me. I can remember having the privilege of visiting Rome in the

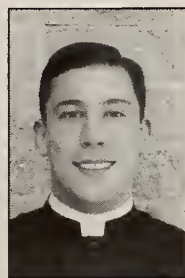
Jubilee Year 2000 and seeing the Holy Father canonize the Mexican martyrs of the early 20th century. It truly was amazing how each person felt a connection with him, despite the fact that tens of thousands were gathered in St. Peter's Square.

I came back from that trip invigorated by seeing him and the universal church, and three months later at 20 years of age entered the seminary.

Many others have memories of the pope's many World Youth Day celebrations. He was a person who believed deeply in the youth and their ability to

Guest Column

JOHN PATRICK CAHILL
GUEST COLUMNIST



transform the world. Young people responded by the millions because they sensed in him sincerity and confidence. He had no fear of communicating the fullness of truth that he had received from Christ.

In the past few years, with his health failing, the pope had inspired the world to endure joyfully the sufferings that God sends as a gift.

After Saturday's ordination, Bishop Jugis gathered all of the Charlotte seminarians and priests who were present. He spoke to us about the gift that is seminary formation and that we should all strive to use this time we've been given to become the priests that God is calling us to be.

He then led us in prayer for our Holy Father. It was in the final hour of Pope John Paul II's life that the seminar-

ians for the diocese were gathered with Bishop Jugis, praying for the pope's soul and that God's will might be done. We prayed he would know God's presence and comfort as he passed from this life to the reward he deserves for his tireless work for the church.

It is a unique time to be in the seminary. We are saddened by the fact that the only pope we have ever known has gone from this world, but we are inspired by his saintly life and example. Pope John Paul II gave all to Christ and constantly encouraged everyone to do the same, because this gives each human life meaning.

We are excited about the unity he so beautifully accomplished and are confident in the continuity of our Catholic Church and her teachings that the pope so boldly proclaimed to the world. This is a cause for rejoicing in the sense that God has been glorified by one of his faithful sons who cared so much for his flock.

He constantly promoted vocations to the priesthood and religious life by explaining by words and example that one's life is truly fulfilled when handed over to Christ. He assured us that God is never outdone in generosity despite the struggles and crosses the vocation carries.

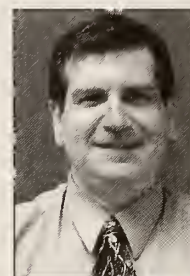
What a blessing and gift Pope John Paul II has been to the Catholic Church. I will forever remember his last hour in this world, and how our bishop and seminarians were joined with him in prayer.

John Patrick Cahill is a graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School and a second-year theologian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania.

The accessible pontiff

Evangelization Matters

FRANK VILLARONGA
GUEST COLUMNIST



Much has been written about Pope John Paul II in the past few days, and much will be written in the weeks to come. I would like to focus on the pope from the point of view of evangelization.

Pope John Paul II traveled throughout the world. I did not have the privilege of actually meeting the pope, but I did see him three times — during his 1987 visit to my "home turf" of Miami, a 1997 World Youth Day in Paris, and finally during a pilgrimage to Rome during the Jubilee year.

One of the things I remember about the pope was how accessible he was — even when you were not able to meet him personally, by seeing him in one of his many public appearances, you felt as if you had actually met him.

It is in this light that we can learn an important lesson in evangelization: be accessible.

Pope John Paul II knew this. In the encyclical "Redemptoris Missio," he speaks of a "new evangelization," a way of reaching out to others that is new in fervor, new in expression and new in methods.

Pope John Paul wrote of evangelization as "the primary service which the church can render to every individual and to all humanity in the modern world, a world which has experienced marvelous achievements but which seems to have lost its sense of ultimate realities and of existence itself."

He echoed this theme in the apostolic letter "Tertio Millennio Adveniente," the three-year preparation for the Third Millennium, and the subsequent jubilee celebration was ushering in a new evangelization in the 21st century. The church's early mission of "going into the world and making disciples of all nations" is still very relevant today.

How does one begin this daunting task? One solution is what has been referred to as "ministry of presence," a ministry in which the pope excelled. He showed us by his example how important it is to go out into the world.

His final challenge to us may lie in his death. The eyes of the world are upon Rome; however, in a very real way, the eyes of the world's various communities are on us — the Catholics of the world.

This is the time in which to be Catholic is to have a special connection with the events in Rome. It is a bond we share with other Catholics and it is a reality that will be evident to those in our own communities. It is a time not to talk about theological differences and debate dogmas, but rather to visibly share our own experience of this holy man and of our faith.

There are many misconceptions about Catholicism in North Carolina. We have a unique opportunity to be open, be accessible to others and, if necessary, answer questions. It is an opportunity for dialogue.

The world is watching Rome, and the world is watching us.

Frank Villaronga is director of evangelization and ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Signs of grace

Pope's struggle was symbol of hope, sacrifice

In her autobiography "The Long Loneliness," Dorothy Day recounts the decline and death of Peter Maurin, an itinerant laborer and self-taught philosopher who teamed with her to found the Catholic Worker Movement. She remembers how painful it was to stand by as Maurin's once boundless energy and formidable intellect withered away over the last five years of his life.

"The fact was he had been stripped of all," Day wrote in her 1952 book. "We are to be pruned as the vine is pruned so that it can bear fruit, and this we cannot do ourselves. God did it for him. He took from him his mind, the one thing he had left, the one thing he perhaps took delight in."

Day's words came to me as I followed news coverage of Pope John Paul II's attempt to deliver his traditional blessing on Easter Sunday. Hampered by throat surgery, the pope made an agonizing effort to speak to the throngs assembled in St. Peter's Square, before giving up and simply making the sign of the cross.

The pope was a man who was truly a titan of our age, a man renowned for his tremendous vigor and dynamism and

unique ability to connect with followers of all ages and races. He was a man who joined in the underground resistance against the Nazis, bounced back from an assassination attempt and played a vital role in ridding his native Poland — and the world — of the Soviet regime.

But on this most holy of Sundays, it was all he could do to raise a feeble hand in blessing.

It was hard to watch the pope shuffle toward death. It is harder still to see old age and illness creep up on our own friends and family members, robbing them of their strength, pride and independence.

Even worse, we are forced to grapple with mortality in a culture that recoils from it and has, in fact, built big business out of trying to restore what we're naturally bound to lose — from hair and sleek physiques to life itself. Our instinct, clearly, is to add to our lives whenever possible, not to subtract from them.

And yet, it was none other than Jesus who allowed himself to be stripped of everything, as we were reminded on Good Friday. His clothes were taken, he was mocked, his friends ran away, he

was tortured and near death when he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" — the lament of an anguished man pruned down to his very core.

From this devastation, however, arose our salvation.

As difficult as it is to accept, perhaps Dorothy Day's words are right on the mark. Perhaps it is not only fitting but absolutely necessary that the pope, once a magnificent athlete, became so weak that strong winds threatened to topple him, that the remarkable communicator and fluent man of languages was so ravaged by disease that he had trouble speaking at all.

His many gifts were taken away little by little, stripping him bare as the end drew near. All too often, our society tells us that this is an indignity. I could not shake the feeling and the hope that it was really a sign of grace.

Stephen Martin is a member of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Guest Column

STEPHEN MARTIN
GUEST COLUMNIST

A LIFE OF LIVING

Pope's vocation emerged after life as actor, laborer, playwright

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Over the last several years of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II revealed an aspect of his personal life that he did not want history to overlook.

In autobiographical books and in selected talks, the pontiff emphasized that what kept him going was not the power of the papacy but the spiritual strength that flowed from his priestly vocation.

"With the passing of time, the most important and beautiful thing for me is that I have been a priest for more than 50 years, because every day I can celebrate Holy Mass!" he told some 300,000 young people in Italy in 1997.

While many writers have recounted the pope's early life as a semi-political pilgrimage under Nazi occupation and communist domination in Poland, the pope himself remembered those years as a crucial time of spiritual formation.

In his 1996 book, "A Gift and Mystery," he recalled how the sense of being called to the priesthood filled him with joy, but it also cut him off from acquaintances and other interests. In one of the most moving passages he ever wrote as pope, he said he still feels a debt to friends who suffered "on the great altar of history" during World War II, while he studied in a clandestine seminary.

Karol Wojtyla, the future pope, lived an unusually varied life before his priestly ordination. As a teen, he split stone at a quarry, wrote poetry and supported a network that smuggled Jews to safety during the German occupation of Poland. As a young priest, he was a favorite with students at Lublin University who flocked to his classes and joined him on camping, hiking and canoeing trips.

As the second-youngest cardinal ever named by the Vatican, he ran an informal office and celebrated holidays with Krakow actors.

It should have been no surprise that he would redefine the traditional role and demeanor of the papacy by traveling extensively, continuing to enjoy outdoor activities and taking on a wide range of political and moral issues.

As a high school student in his hometown of Wadowice, in southern Poland, Wojtyla impressed classmates by the in-



CNS PHOTO FROM THE VATICAN

Pope John Paul II (center, in red boots) prays with a group of skiers before heading down a slope in this 1984 file photo. The pontiff, who enjoyed skiing in his native Poland before his election, was able to slip away to ski only a few times as he led the worldwide church.

tense way he would pray in church, a habit of deep meditation that remained with him for life.

The Nazi takeover of Poland in September 1939 meant an end to all religious training and cultural activities, but Wojtyla attended an underground university in Krakow and helped set up a clandestine theater group that performed in stores and homes.

In addition to the quarry, he worked in a chemical factory — experiences that provided material for his poetry and papal writings on labor. He participated in daily Mass, spiritual exercises, Marian devotion and Bible study.

Soon after his father's death in 1941, Karol withdrew from the theatrical group and began studying for the priesthood, a decision that surprised many of his friends, who tried to convince him his talent lay in the theater.

He studied in a clandestine seminary operated in a cardinal's Krakow residence in defiance of Nazi orders forbidding religious education. The archbishop saw him as a

future church leader.

Yet the young man who wrote poems and a doctoral dissertation on the mysticism of St. John of the Cross was attracted to monastic contemplation. Twice during these years he tried to join the Discalced Carmelites but was turned away with the advice: "You are destined for greater things."

He was ordained Nov. 1, 1946, just as the communist regime replaced the Germans at the end of the war.

After earning a doctorate in ethics,

Father Wojtyla was assigned in 1948 to Poland's rural village of Niegowic for a year before returning to Krakow. There he devoted much of his attention to young people — teaching, playing soccer and inviting university students to his house for discussions.

After earning a second doctorate in moral theology, Father Wojtyla began teaching at Lublin University in 1953. He published more than 100 articles and several books on ethics and other subjects, and at age 36 became a full professor at the Institute of Ethics in Lublin.

Father Wojtyla's interest in outdoor activities remained strong, and younger companions called him "the eternal teenager." Groups of students regularly joined him for hiking, skiing, bicycling, camping and kayaking, accompanied by prayer, outdoor Masses and theological discussions.

Father Wojtyla was on a kayaking trip in 1958 when, at age 38, he was named an auxiliary bishop of Krakow — the youngest bishop in Poland's history. He continued to live a simple life, shunning the trappings that came with his position.

For instance, he only left his Krakow apartment for the more luxurious bishop's residence after friends moved his belongings one day when he was out of town.

In 1964, shortly before the end of the Second Vatican Council, he was named archbishop of Krakow. Just three years later, at the age of 47, he became a cardinal. But he continued his open approach in Krakow, seeing visitors without appointments and holding seminars at the cardinal's residence for actors, workers, students, priests and nuns.

In 1976, after touring several U.S. cities and attending the International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, Cardinal Wojtyla attended a conference of Polish-Americans at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Mich. True to form, having sat through a string of indoor meetings, one afternoon he canceled a session to go canoeing.

Contributing to this story was Patricia Zapor in Washington.

AN INTERVIEW with BISHOP JUGIS —



DVD copies of the 30-minute television documentary "Maureen O'Boyle and Bishop Peter Jugis" are available for free. The program, which aired recently on WBTV in Charlotte, features a wide-ranging interview with the Bishop.

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Mystery of the Mass, Part
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1 PAGE 7



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The conclave to elect the new pontiff begins Monday, April 18. Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, let us unite our prayers to the prayers of the Universal Church, in supplication to the Holy Spirit for a new Shepherd.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bless J. Jugis

The Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D.
Bishop of Charlotte

Prayer for the Conclave

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God,

You are the eternal shepherd and guide. In your mercy grant your Church a shepherd who will walk in your ways and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

One: Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

The world says goodbye

People gather at churches, TVs during pope's funeral in Rome

EVENT GATHERS TOGETHER
INTERRELIGIOUS,
POLITICAL LEADERS

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

ROME — People worldwide gathered in churches and in front of TVs as Pope John Paul II's funeral was celebrated in Rome.

In addition to being attended by dozens of interreligious leaders, the April 8 funeral of Pope John Paul II may have marked his last diplomatic coup when more than 200 heads of state and government delegates — some bitter adversaries — came together to pay their last respects.

See FUNERAL, page 9

More Coverage

page 8 | Bishop Jugis to celebrate Masses for new pope's election

page 9 | Transition time offers good lessons for young people



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Monarchs, heads of state and other dignitaries attend the funeral of Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 8.

'WITH THE LORD'

Terri Schindler Schiavo remembered at Mass

Priests, laity reflect on Terri's impact, struggle for life

BY LOIS KINDLE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GULFPORT, Fla. — On the surface, the Mass seemed much like any Catholic

funeral celebration.

Eight priests and two deacons processed to the altar, which was covered with lilies and other flowers. A chorus lifted its voice in praise; the faithful were somber, respectful and reflective. Many prayed rosaries. Tears flowed freely.

See TERRI, page 5



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schindler Schiavo, raises a Purple Heart from a Vietnam veteran at his sister's memorial Mass in Gulfport, Fla., April 5.

Culture Watch

TV's 'Revelations'; six new books about/by pope

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Defending the bond

Tribunal defender reflects on 30 years of service

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Perspectives

Thoughts on Terri Schiavo, the pope; theology on tap

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

UNCOMMON BOND



CNS PHOTO BY CATHY JOYCE, CATHOLIC HERALD

Dan and Terri Haverty share a moment with Bishop William K. Weigand of Sacramento, Calif., during a March 28 press conference, where it was announced Dan Haverty would give part of his liver to Bishop Weigand. The 67-year-old bishop needed the transplant because he suffers from primary sclerosing cholangitis. An uncommon progressive liver disease, it causes scarring near the liver that affects the organ's function.

Bishop Weigand, donor recovering from liver transplant surgery

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — Bishop William K. Weigand of Sacramento and Dan Haverty, the El Dorado Hills parishioner who donated two-thirds of his liver to the bishop, are recuperating from successful liver transplant surgery performed April 1 at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco.

Both Bishop Weigand and Haverty were in fair condition as of April 7 and following the usual postoperative course, said Lynette Magnino, director of communications for the Sacramento Diocese.

"There were no surprises in the surgery and no complications," she said.

Haverty, assistant chief of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and a member of Holy Trinity Parish, was to be released from the hospital April 9, according to his wife, Terri. She has been by her husband's side since he checked in March 31.

Terri Haverty said her husband and Bishop Weigand have been visiting each day.

"That gives Dan tremendous bursts of encouragement to keep plugging away. That keeps us going," she said. "The bishop looks great, his eyes are bright and his smile is sweet. We are highly motivated to

go home and life will go on, but with a whole new sense of what life really means."

Steve Turner, public information officer for the fire district, visited with the Havertys April 5. He said the "entire fire department family" will be supporting the Havertys during Dan's recovery.

"Dan's an extremely giving individual," Turner said. "To donate part of his body to help the bishop is so consistent with Dan's nature and the man I know and respect."

The bishop received about 70 percent of Haverty's liver during a six-and-a-half-hour operation, directed by Dr. John Roberts, chief of transplantation surgery at the hospital.

Roberts said that because the bishop's liver had been seriously damaged by primary sclerosing cholangitis, a disease he has had for the past 24 years, liver transplantation from a living donor proved to be a good option.

Living liver donors save the lives of the recipients and help make the waiting list shorter for others in need of a liver transplant, Roberts noted.

"However, if there were enough organs donated after death, we would not need to risk the life of a healthy person," he said.

Unborn Victims of Violence Act signed into law in West Virginia

WHEELING, W.Va. (CNS) — A law making it a separate crime to injure an unborn child drew praise from the bishop of West Virginia's only Catholic diocese.

Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston congratulated the state Legislature for passing the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and praised Gov. Joe Manchin for signing it.

"The passage of this law could not have come at a better time than the Easter season, with its promise of new life," said Bishop Bransfield after Manchin signed the bill March 28.

The law establishes that an unborn child may be a separate and distinct victim in certain violent crimes against a pregnant woman. If an unborn child is injured or killed during particular crimes, the assailant may also be charged with that offense on behalf of the child.

It passed both houses of the legislature by overwhelming majorities. It will

become state law on July 1.

Bishop Bransfield commended Manchin for signing the bill and for his support of pro-life initiatives in West Virginia.

With the signing of the bill known as "Christy and Ashley's Law," West Virginia joins 30 other states with similar laws. It is named for Christy and Ashley Alberts.

Christy Alberts was almost nine months pregnant when she was shot and killed. The baby, whom she had named Ashley Nicole, also died.

At the signing ceremony, Melissa Adkins, legislative coordinator of West Virginians for Life, said "for far too long, gaps in West Virginia law have denied justice to families who have had their unborn children killed or injured at the hands of a criminal."

The bill exempts abortion, acts by the mother, medical treatment and research from prosecution.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap* will meet at Pepperoni's Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center, 4267 Park Rd; Tuesdays in April, at 6:30 p.m. The theme for the sessions will be "Uncorking the Truth About God, Sex, and the Sanctity of Life" and will feature Father Timothy Reid, Cindy Brown, Dr. Matt Harrison and Abbott Placid Solari as speakers. For more information, contact Catrina Conway at (704) 632-8620.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School* classes of 1954 through 1965 is being considered for Fall 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday (TGIF)*, a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap* will meet April 20 and 27 at Coopers Ale House 534Q West Market St. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com.

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FROM THE VATICAN

As church prepares for conclave, doors close to journalists

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During a 10-day period surrounding the death of Pope John Paul II, the Vatican practiced a remarkable degree of openness and enjoyed overwhelmingly positive press coverage of the pope's legacy and the church's activities.

However, as the church prepared for one of its most secret events, the doors closed once again to journalists.

On April 9, the day after the pope's funeral, the cardinals agreed not to give interviews, in order to concentrate more fully on prayer, reflection and private discussion before the start of the conclave April 18.

Many reporters who flew to Rome for the papal transition felt let down.

The abrupt halt in media contact had been in the cards for some time, however. Some cardinals pushed for a

no-interview policy soon after their daily meetings began April 4.

Father Reese said that while the decision was disappointing it was not a complete surprise.

The cardinals were "quite aware that as soon as he was buried the story was going to change, and it was going to be about who's the leading candidate, about conflict and division, which is the kind of press they don't want," he said.

Judging by the rules Pope John Paul revised in 1996 for the next conclave, he would probably have agreed with the media ban. He mentioned the need for secrecy 17 times and provided that well before the conclave begins each cardinal take an oath promising not to divulge information about matters "in any way related to the election of the Roman pontiff."

GREENSBORO — Anyone currently unemployed or concerned about their present employment situation is invited to attend the *Re-employment Support Group* held in the Parish Life Center, Room 8, of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will meet April 28 and May 12 and 26, 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, call Colleen Assal, (294) 4696, ext. 226. Anyone with knowledge of job opportunities is asked to call Colleen to share them with the group.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 328-B Woodsway Ln. NW, will host *Landings*, an outreach program for those who have left the Catholic Church and are thinking of returning. Landings will meet Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., through May 28. Anyone interested in participating should call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer minis-

try comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., invites all Catholics who have been inactive, feel alienated or want to take another look at the Catholic Church to attend a series of sessions designed to address issues that have perhaps caused a feeling of estrangement. *Re-Membering Church* will meet Wednesdays, April 20 through May 25, following the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican extends U.S. sexual abuse norms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican's Congregation for Bishops has granted an extension of the special U.S. church norms for dealing with sexual abuse of minors by clergy, a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops spokesman said March 30.

"The life of the current norms has been extended until further action by the USCCB, which presumably will be in June," said Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, director of the USCCB's communications department.

He did not elaborate, but such an extension had to come from the Congregation for Bishops, the office that originally granted a "recognitio," or official Vatican approval, to the norms.

The "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" and the accompanying legal document, "Essential Norms for Diocesan-Eparchial Policies Dealing With Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons," were originally approved by the U.S. bishops at their June 2002 meeting in Dallas.

After consultations with Vatican officials, the bishops adopted revisions in

the charter and norms in November 2002, and that December the Congregation for Bishops gave the "recognitio" necessary for the norms to take effect as church law in the United States.

The norms took effect for a two-year period, beginning March 1, 2003. When church laws or decrees have such an expiration date, it is common practice for the Vatican to grant an extension if work on a revision is still under way as the expiration date approaches.

A mixed commission of Vatican and U.S. church officials met at the Vatican Jan. 31-Feb. 1 to discuss possible revisions in the light of the past two years of experience with the norms. Any revisions must first be adopted by the bishops at a general meeting and then receive Vatican approval before they can become law.

Details of the commission's meeting were not made public, but one participant told CNS at the time that the question was raised about extending the current norms until a revised version can be duly discussed and adopted.

The next general meeting of the U.S. bishops takes place June 15-18 in Chicago.

A pint or two



PHOTO BY KAREN EVANS

Gina Parsons of the finance department for the Diocese of Charlotte has her arm prepared to donate blood at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte April 6. The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas collected 11 pints of whole blood from diocesan employees and other volunteers at the Pastoral Center.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 17 — 11 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville

April 19 Meeting with Catholic State Legislators
Raleigh

April 20 — 6 p.m. "Partners in Hope" Catholic Social Services Event
Winston-Salem

April 21 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Spirit Church, Denver

April 23 — 4:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

April 24 — Diocesan Youth Conference

April 26 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. James the Greater Church, Hamlet



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Alternative aspirations

University students spend spring break with Holy Angels

BELMONT — A group of college students recently experienced a different kind of spring break this year.

Ten students from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., traded in the traditional vacation week for eight days of volunteer work at Holy Angels in Belmont March 4-11.

Organized by the university's Catholic campus ministry, the students' goals were to focus on helping others rather than to focus on themselves at the facility that provides services and programs to children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation.

The "Spring Break Alternative" concept places teams of college students in communities to engage in service and experiential learning. In doing so, students are able to contribute to the community through their hard work. Many students have described the experience as funda-

mentally life-changing.

At Holy Angels, the program offered the students a unique opportunity to work on several special projects, including PUSH Place, an outdoor area that features unique swing sets and play space. The students also spent time building relationships with Holy Angels residents and staff.

An ice cream social and program at Holy Angels wrapped up the students' visit.

This was the third year James Madison University students have participated in the Spring Break Alternative Program at Holy Angels. Last year, students worked at Holy Angels' Camp Hope facility, a camp specially designed for people with disabilities.

Holy Angels, a private, nonprofit corporation, was founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from James Madison University in Virginia spruce up PUSH Place at Holy Angels in Belmont as part of a weeklong Spring Break Alternative program in April.

Walking for a cause



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Hundreds of people participate in the 12th Annual Walk for AIDS, themed "Walk a Mile in My Shoes," through Belmont April 3. The three-mile walk raised awareness of the HIV/AIDS problem in the region and funds for House of Mercy, a nonprofit residential facility for persons living with advanced AIDS.

House of Mercy was founded in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont to provide housing and compassionate 24-hour care for low-income persons living with advanced AIDS. More than 200 men and women have made their home at House of Mercy, where physical, psychological and spiritual support is provided.

This year, women have made up 40 percent of the admissions to House of Mercy, the only facility of its type in the region.

Southern states, with a third of the United States population, account for approximately 46 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases. More than 2,000 new cases of HIV disease were reported to the N.C. Division of Public Health in 2003, representing the third consecutive year of increased reports.

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Many remember Terri Schiavo's life, struggle

TERRI, from page 1

Theresa Marie Schindler Schiavo was commended to God April 5, as an estimated 700 people packed Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Gulfport.

Her body was not there, however. Her husband, Michael Schiavo, had the body cremated April 2 and planned to bury the ashes in Pennsylvania.

The 41-year-old brain-damaged woman, known as Terri, died March 31, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed through a court order obtained by her husband.

Many people stood on the sidewalks outside the Gulfport church and listened over loudspeakers. Many in attendance had never met Terri Schiavo but were there to support her grieving family — her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler; her brother, Bobby; and her sister, Suzanne Vitadamo.

"There are a lot of people who have no hope for the handicapped," said Marie Carroll of St. Patrick Church in Largo.

The woman said her experience as the mother of a 45-year-old mentally handicapped woman and what the Schindlers experienced has taught her greater compassion and love.

In his homily, Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said: "For so many people, going through this short and confusing life, the human story is birth, life and death. Beyond that, they cannot see, and beyond that, they have no hope."

But for Christians, he said, the story is life, death and resurrection. They know the grief they feel at the passing of a loved one will be transformed into joy, he said.

"We join with Terri's parents tonight in thanking God for the gift of her life," said Father Pavone. Looking directly at the Schindlers, he then added, "We are with you."

The meaning of life and happiness, he said, is never found in throwing other people out of the way. "It is found when we push ourselves out of the way and make room for the other," he said.

Father Pavone spoke of the outpouring of love for Terri Schiavo from around the world, especially during the last few weeks of her life.

"God sends us people like Terri to remind us of the meaning of life," he said. "God calls us to go forth from this place and build a culture of life. God calls us to go forth from this place to ensure that Terri, who had such difficulty speaking, will speak louder than ever to this world."

Bobby Schindler read a letter at the service from a man who had mailed Terri Schiavo a Purple Heart awarded for service in Vietnam. Dated March 29, the letter said, "Our prayers are unceasing ... our hearts are shattered by the great injustice suffered by Terri, you, America and God-loving people worldwide."

"We believe that Terri suffered and was condemned to death by an act of domestic terrorism in the form of judicial homicide," the letter added. The man, who remained anonymous, was shot in the head in Vietnam in 1965.



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Above: Elizabeth Steel, Taryn Allin and Sara Rodriguez protest in favor of restoring Terri Schiavo's feeding tube during a rally in front of the White House in Washington March 28. The 41-year-old brain-damaged woman died March 31, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed under a court order granted to her husband, Michael Schiavo.

Right: Members of the media cover an April 5 Mass celebrated in remembrance of Terri Schiavo. Nearly 700 people overflowed Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Gulfport, Fla., for the service planned by her parents and siblings.



CNS PHOTO BY ED FOSTER JR.

Vitadamo spoke of her love for her brother, her parents and her late sister. Looking at her mother, she said softly, "You are the one I ache for the most. I'm so sorry your Terri is no longer with you."

Bob and Mary Schindler wanted media coverage but insisted the press be confined to an area away from the church. Neither were reporters permitted into the center where two public receptions were held.

"Sometimes grief has to happen away from the lens of the media," said Father Bill Svengros, pastor.

"They (Bob and Mary Schindler) are remarkable people. They have great faith in the Lord and certain hope in the resurrec-

tion," said Father Svengros. "When I talk with them, there's no sign of any sort of bitterness or rancor, but one of really a humble trust in the Lord."

He said the Schindlers had not discussed the cremation of Terri's body with him.

"As Catholics, we believe her soul is with God, and in tonight's liturgy ... we entrust her to God. We pray for our sister, and we pray for ourselves, for those of us who are left behind. But whether her body is cremated or whether it's present ... God's not limited in time or space. Terri's with the Lord."

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COURTESY PHOTO BY REGINA MILLER

Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor of St. James Church in Hamlet, washes the feet of parishioner Paul Kuebler during a Holy Thursday Mass March 24.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarteners at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem show off their homemade Easter bonnets in March. Each year, the school holds an Easter parade before Easter Sunday in which the students march through the school and neighborhood while wearing their bonnets and singing Easter songs.

AN INTERVIEW with BISHOP JUGIS —



DVD copies of the 30-minute television documentary "Maureen O'Boyle and Bishop Peter Jugis" are available for free. The program, which aired recently on WBTV in Charlotte, features a wide-ranging interview with the Bishop.

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Or via e-mail to: Documentary@charlottediocese.org



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with eighth-grade students at St. Michael School in Gastonia after the bishop celebrated Mass at the school March 23, the last day of classes before the Easter break.



COURTESY PHOTO

Faith formation students in kindergarten through fifth-grade gathered with their families at Holy Spirit Church in Denver to take part in a Seder meal March 20. To help the students and families more fully understand the symbolic food and actions of the Last Supper meal, the children tasted bitter herbs, haroset and matzah; said blessing before each of four glasses of "wine" (juice); and discussed the hardships the Hebrew slaves endured.

To show they wanted to belong to Jesus, the students cut leaves with their names on them and attached them to a vine running along a bulletin board. Helping to wash and dry one another's hands illustrated the need for Catholics to serve others as Jesus showed.

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The Synagogue and the Temple

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 13

Last month, we completed the Liturgy of the Word, the first of the two main parts of the Mass. Before moving to the second part of the Mass, we would do well to review what we have learned in our examination of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

The first principal point that we discovered is that the Mass is the highest and greatest form of prayer precisely because it is the perfect worship of God the Father by the Son; the Mass is the sacrificial self-offering of Jesus Christ, the high priest, to the Father on our behalf.

As members of Christ's mystical body, we participate in his perfect worship of the Father. His prayer becomes our prayer. And so the Mass teaches us how to pray and provides for us the basic elements of prayer.

As we inspected the Introductory Rites of the Mass, we proceeded through the Penitential Rite, the Kyrie Eleison, the Gloria and finally the Opening Collect or Prayer. We learned that prayer has the following pattern: humility and repentance, praise and adoration, and petition and supplication. The Introductory Rites move us through these elements of prayer.

But there is also a further and perhaps more significant element of prayer: receptivity, listening to the voice of God. Therefore, the Mass proceeds directly to the Liturgy of the Word, where we have the opportunity to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd leading us to eternal truth and life.

We saw that the Liturgy of the Word incorporates the Old Testament and the New Testament, combines the foundation of Judaism with the fulfillment of Christianity.

We also learned that the Liturgy of the Word impels us to respond. The homily or sermon given by the bishop, priest or deacon is the first formal response to the Word of God with the purpose of increasing faith. Then, all the faithful respond by professing the faith of the Catholic Church, which then leads us to pray on behalf of the church for the salvation of the world in the General Intercessions. These prayers conclude the Liturgy of the Word.

But before moving on to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, it is very important to note the historical and liturgical foundation for the Mass. The Mass is not merely a Christian invention or innovation. The New Testament rests upon the Old Testament. The family tree of Christianity has Judaism as its roots.

The Liturgy of the Word is the Christian fulfillment of the Jewish synagogue. In the synagogue, the Jews would listen to the proclamation of sacred Scripture, principally the Torah or the Law and the Prophets. The rabbi would then interpret and explain the Scriptures. The first Christians, in fact, would attend both the synagogue as well as the Mass until it became clearer that Christianity fulfilled Judaism and became the new way.

As the Liturgy of the Word is the

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



fulfillment of the Jewish synagogue, so also the Liturgy of the Eucharist is the fulfillment of the Jewish temple. In the temple in Jerusalem, live animal sacrifices were offered to God on behalf of mankind. Blood was shed as a gift, an offering, a sacrifice that symbolically represented the sacrifice of man. Life was offered for life, blood for blood, the external sacrifice of an animal representing the internal sacrifice of man.

As we discover in the Old Testament, these animal sacrifices were unable to take away sin and offer life to man. And so God sent his own son into the world. As God, he offered the one, true, eternal sacrifice of his life to the Father; as man, he offered his life on our behalf. Life was offered for life, blood for blood, but this time, Christ's sacrifice was efficacious in redeeming the world from evil, sin and death.

And so we see that the holy sacrifice of the Mass unites the Jewish synagogue with the Jewish temple, the Word of God with the work of salvation, the Liturgy of the Word with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Next week we will begin to look at the Liturgy of the Eucharist as we examine the three principal movements: offering, consecration and Communion.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?
Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html

Plenary indulgence during the Year of the Eucharist

Q. We're told that a plenary indulgence may be gained in the Year of the Eucharist, announced by Pope John Paul II. How does one gain this indulgence? (Florida)

A. Two plenary indulgences may be gained during 2005, the Year of the Eucharist, by participating attentively and piously in a sacred function in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, whether exposed or in the tabernacle. Clergy, religious and others may gain the indulgence by reciting Evening and Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours before the Blessed Sacrament.

The usual conditions for plenary indulgences apply: reception of the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist, freedom from attachment to sin and prayer for the intentions of the pope.

The sick and others who cannot get to church may make the visit to the Blessed Sacrament in their hearts, and recite the Our Father and the Creed,

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



with an invocation to Jesus in the Eucharist (Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, Dec. 25, 2004).

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, Ill. 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Orders for Scout Eucharist patch increase after pope's death

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DODGE CITY, Kan. — Since Pope John Paul II died April 2, the Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Diocese of Dodge City has been overwhelmed with orders for its Year of the Eucharist Scout patch, according to Tim Wenzl, religious emblems coordinator.

"I see Scouts earning this patch as a tribute to Pope John Paul II," said Wenzl.

"The Holy Father proclaimed this special year to draw emphasis on the Eucharist. Scouts meeting the requirements and earning this patch will long remember that the pope died during the Year of the Eucharist," he said.

"They are responding to the Holy Father's call to understand the importance of the Eucharist in our Catholic faith," said Wenzl.

Pope John Paul II announced last June that a year of special emphasis on the Eucharist would be held in the church from October 2004 to October of this year.

According to Wenzl, the purpose of

the religious activity patch program is to assist Scouts in better understanding Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, the Mass as his sacrifice and the importance of eucharistic adoration. To earn the badge, there are different requirements for Scouts in first through fifth grades and sixth through 12th grades, and for adult leaders.

The patch was created this year by the Diocese of Dodge City's Catholic Committee on Scouting. It is believed to be the only religious emblem program of this type in the country.

This religious patch program is self-administered. The requirements, to be checked by adult leaders or parents, should be completed before ordering patches.

The requirements must be completed before the end of October. Patches may be limited, so participants are urged to reserve patches prior to undertaking the requirements by sending an e-mail to Wenzl at twenzl@dcdiocese.org, or by calling (620) 227-1556.

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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

George Cobb (right), director of planning for the Diocese of Charlotte, and David Hains, communications director, hang bunting over the entrance to the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte April 4 as a sign of mourning for the pope's death.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DONNA BIRKEL

Student council officers at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem lead the student body in reciting a decade of the rosary in honor of Pope John Paul II every morning April 4-8.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrates Mass in memory of Pope John Paul II at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville April 8. A viewscreen behind the altar showcased a video presentation of the pope. The Mass was covered by local television news stations.

Bishop Jugis to celebrate Masses for election of pope

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As 115 cardinals under the age of 80 gather in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope, many people around the world are gathering to pray for them and the man they choose as Pope John Paul II's successor.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate daily Mass for the election of a pope. The Masses will be held at 12:10 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte beginning Monday, April 18, the start date of the conclave, until the conclave is concluded.

With the exception of Monday's schedule, which includes eucharistic adoration, vespers and Benediction, the remainder of the daily schedule is subject to change when a new pope is elected. At that time, said Bishop Jugis, diocesan celebrations of thanksgiving will be scheduled.

A meeting of cardinals to elect a new pope is a conclave. The word — from the Latin "cum clave" (with key) — means under lock and key.

In 1268, cardinals couldn't decide on a new pope. After nearly three years the people finally locked them up and cut their rations. The man elected, Pope Gregory X, ordered that in the future cardinals be sequestered from the start, and eventually the practice became standard practice.

The election of the next pope will be announced by the joyous ringing of the bells of St. Peter's Basilica, as well as the traditional white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican said April 5.

WANT TO GO?

St. Patrick Cathedral is at 1621 Dilworth Road East in Charlotte.

Monday: 12:10 p.m. Mass; 1-6 p.m. eucharistic adoration; followed by vespers and Benediction.

Tuesday-Friday: 12:10 p.m. Mass; 1-2 p.m. eucharistic adoration (subject to change upon election of a new pope — please call parish office at 704-334-2283)



COURTESY PHOTO

Mark Smith, a parishioner of St. Bernadette Church in Linville, embraces Pope John Paul II during the pope's weekly general audience at the Vatican in 1998.

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REMEMBERING A PONTIFF

World says goodbye to the pope

FUNERAL, from page 1

For those who were unable to attend the funeral, they found ways to pay honor the pope from home.

In Pakistan, the national flag flew at half-staff April 8 as a mark of respect for Pope John Paul.

More than 40 police officers stood guard and mounted roadblocks outside Our Lady of Fatima Church in the capital, Islamabad, during a memorial Mass attended by diplomats and leaders of other faiths.

In Bethlehem, West Bank, nearly 200 faculty members and students from Bethlehem University crowded into the small university chapel for a Mass. The pope had expressed pride in the university, which was founded following his visit in 1964.

In their homes, many Israelis and Palestinians followed the funeral on their televisions.

In Haiti, some citizens recalled the first words the pope spoke as he stepped onto the tarmac at the Port-au-Prince airport in March 1983: "Things must change here."

The bishops' conference, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps attended an April 7 Mass to pay homage to the pope at the Port-au-Prince cathedral.

In Britain, political campaigning for May 5 national elections was suspended for the day of the pope's funeral as a mark of respect.

Screens were erected in London's Trafalgar Square, and some 200 mourners gathered in the rain to watch the ceremony.

Most Masses throughout Britain April 8 were suspended so Catholics could watch the funeral on television. The exception was Westminster Cathedral in London, which rang its bells to mark the start of a Mass for the pope at the time his funeral began at the Vatican.

In Wadowice, Poland, the pope's home town, a giant television screen was erected to allow residents to watch the pope's funeral.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Worshippers pray at a church in Hong Kong April 8 as they watch Pope John Paul II's funeral on television.

Many faiths

Cameras captured the international and ecumenical flavor of Pope John Paul II's funeral, but few noted the dozens of interreligious leaders attending the ceremony.

"We received so many messages by telephone, fax, e-mail, even personal visits" from people of other religions offering condolences after the pope's death April 2, said Msgr. Felix Machado, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

"Many of them also said they would like to be present if possible at the funeral ceremony," he said.

When the council told Vatican officials organizing the funeral that an interreligious group was interested in attending, the idea "was well accepted," Msgr. Machado said.

The council arranged for a special bus to pick up the more than 60 leaders and escort them to the basilica the morning of the funeral. Msgr. Machado said the group included Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists.

"They are our friends," he added. "The pope endeared (himself to) these people; he came to be so close to them."

One message from a Hindu in India said Pope John Paul's "unfailing love and surrender to God inspired millions to fill the spiritual void in their own lives. ... He was an example to all of us."

Msgr. Machado said Pope John Paul "never missed a chance to spend time (with people from other faiths,) so it's natural we carry on the tradition."

Politics aside

Political leaders were quick to put aside their differences to attend the pope's funeral.

U.S. President George W. Bush was just yards away from President Mohammed Khatami of Iran, a country he has labeled part of an "axis of evil."

Khatami, who met with the pope in 1999, said the April 8 gathering should be a springboard for peace.

"The presence of such high-level world figures demonstrates the world's respect" for the pope," said Khatami.

"I wish this day could be a moment that makes us hope for a future of peace, not of conflict and hostility," he said.

Representatives of troubled neighbors — India and Pakistan as well as Israel and the Palestinian National Authority — were seated in the same section reserved for heads of state in St. Peter's Square.

Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia were among the political leaders there who had met with the pope and, at times, had been praised and reproved by him.

The pope repeatedly had voiced to

Bush his strong disapproval over the invasion of Iraq, most recently during the president's June 2004 visit to the Vatican.

But Pope John Paul's funeral gave the world's leaders the opportunity for a fresh start.

A senior Vatican official told reporters that "the funeral gave these leaders a sense of freedom. They were not afraid that people would read their actions politically."

"I saw Israelis, Muslims who greeted each other with gestures of affection," he said. "One could see these persons who clearly felt freer" than they do, for example, during U.N. assemblies or meetings.

Vatican Radio called the gathering of heads of state representing some 141 nations around the world "a sort of planetary parliament, assembled for a special session under the sign of common prayer and human solidarity" toward a pope who was loved by many near and far.

Pope John Paul set two more records April 8: He attracted the largest number of official delegates ever to attend a papal funeral, and his was the first papal funeral attended by a sitting U.S. president.

Carol Glatz and Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

Transition time between popes offers new lessons for today's youths

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although most young Catholics could probably recite basic church prayers and list the seven sacraments, they might be a little shaky when it comes to the technical aspects of electing a new pope.

With the election process set to begin April 18, teachers and youth ministers were trying to get their students up to speed on what takes place behind the doors of the Sistine Chapel when the 117 cardinals under the age of 80 gather in the conclave to elect Pope John Paul II's successor.

"It certainly is a teaching moment," said Mary Kunzler, chair of religious studies at Mother Cabrini High School in New York.

Kunzler said her students are interested in the whole process of selecting a new leader for the church, especially since it is so tied up with history, tradition and ritual.

Although the students are curious about the procedures for electing a pope, Kunzler said they want to know what makes a good pope and why certain cardinals would be better suited for the job.

Religion classes are natural places to fit in lessons on the conclave, but there are plenty of other ways young people can find out more about the ancient process.

Life Teen, a program for Catholic teenagers, has a section on its Web site, www.lifeteen.com, specifically dealing with the process for selecting a new pope with topics ranging from how a new pope is chosen, misconceptions about the papacy and a section explaining the hierarchy of the church.

By explaining the aspects of the papacy, Mark Hart of Life Teen said teenagers can feel like they know "the background of the story" and become more convinced that the pope's role is to "safeguard truth" not to give it.

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Culture Watch

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Six new books out on Pope John Paul II

REVIEWED BY MAUREEN E. DALY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Six new books by and about Pope John Paul II were published in the last weeks of March. They are reviewed in brief here.

"Universal Father: A Life of John Paul II," by Garry O'Connor.

This is a very readable new biography of the pope, filled with literary and theatrical references that help to place the pope in the context of world culture and 20th-century history.

It has a detailed chronology of the pope's life noting significant historical events. It has a very useful listing of the pope's many publications with a brief description of the content of each. And it has a bibliography of source material and suggestions for further reading.

As an author who has written 18 other books, many on theatrical subjects, O'Connor is able to place Pope John Paul II's life in its proper artistic and philosophical context. This biography is highly recommended.

"Memory and Identity: Conversations at the Dawn of a Millennium," by Pope John Paul II.

As the realization that a great mind has passed away begins to take hold, readers may regret that they never had a chance to meet and converse with Pope John Paul II. For those readers, "Memory and Identity" will be a real pleasure.

It is the edited account of conversations that the pope had with two philosopher friends.

It gives the delightful sensation of sitting in on fascinating talk among persons of great intelligence, wide knowledge and compassionate perceptions. The topics they cover with pithy wisdom and historical insight include the limits of evil, freedom and responsibility, and concepts of patriotism, European identity and democracy.

"The Moral Theology of Pope John Paul II," by Father Charles E. Curran.

This book is a concise yet complete summary of the late pope's moral teaching.

The author gives a systematic analysis of the moral theology that underlies the pope's authoritative teachings, specifically his 14 en-

cyclicals. However, this book is not a polemical critique but rather a useful and approachable summary of the pope's thinking.

Faculty of schools of theology call this book "a much-needed volume" and "an excellent overview."

"The Loving Heart: The Private Prayers of Pope John Paul II," by Pope John Paul II.

Here in the pope's own words are his thoughts and prayers on the meaning of suffering. These short selections are taken from messages written for the "World Day of the Sick" or messages addressed to the sick and suffering during his world travels or in visits to hospitals and residential clinics.

Here are words of comfort and clarity.

"John Paul II: A Life in Grace," by Renzo Allegri, translated by Marsha Daigle-Williamson.

This biography sees the pope's life through the lens of miracles, exceptions and special graces.

It moves as swiftly as an adventure story through the pope's long, eventful and sometimes apparently miraculous life. Allegri emphasizes the pope's several near brushes with death, especially the 1981 assassination attempt, which the biographer and the pope himself see as an example of the special protection of Our Lady of Fatima.

The tone is openly reverential.

"John Paul II in the Holy Land: In His Own Words," edited by Paulist Father Lawrence Boadt and Kevin di Camillo.

This useful book collects in one place the pope's speeches given during his history-making visit to the Holy Land in the Jubilee Year 2000, a map of the journey, photos, and commentary from Jewish and Christian perspectives.

Because it focuses on one topic, this book could be a good text for an adult interfaith discussion group that is interested in furthering Christian and Jewish understanding.

Daly is book review editor at Catholic News Service and is a graduate student in theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 24, 2005

April 24, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 6:1-7
- Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
- 2) 1 Peter 2:4-9
- 3) Gospel: John 14:1-12

Jesus motivates us to be living examples

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We have watched the scene countless times on television and in the movies.

The camera brings us to the stylized graveside service. The graveside set piece provides us an opportunity to learn something new about the living in the cast as well as the dead.

Dressed in black the gathered guests listen as the minister intones the familiar lines, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places" with some degree of authenticity. Unfortunately, the portrayal of actual faith in the proclaimed words of Jesus is seldom part of the film.

Today in John's Gospel, Jesus tries to prepare his disciples for his departure. For the men and women who had supported Jesus during his ministry, the

idea that he would be leaving them had to be unthinkable.

In the questions of Thomas and Philip, we hear people like ourselves, grounded in the here and now — people who are filled with questions and want logical, down-to-earth answers. In the process of answering their questions, Jesus leaves them with more to ponder.

Why can they not see that Jesus and the Father are one? Why don't they recognize the importance of Jesus' use of the words "I am" and immediately grasp their implications? What does he intend when he says, "I am going to the Father"?

Those of us living in the early 21st century know the answer. We are able to look back through the lens of Easter faith. We know the fullness of the promise. We know how the story will unwind.

The stigma of being executed as an enemy of the state and the profound glory of being raised from the dead have become the cornerstone of the church. However, we must ask ourselves whether the risen Christ has become the cornerstone of our lives?

At the close of today's Gospel, Jesus tells Philip and all who hear his words that there is work to be done. Then and now Jesus needs real flesh-and-blood people to minister on his behalf.

A living faith and love of the risen Lord motivate us to be the comforting hands of Jesus and differentiate us from two-dimensional characters in a set piece.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 17-23

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter), Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20-25, John 10:1-10; **Monday,** Acts 11:1-18, John 10:11-18; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (St. Anselm),** Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. George, St. Adalbert),** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24-30

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; **Monday (St. Mark),** 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Tuesday,** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday,** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort),** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (St. Catherine of Siena),** Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday (St. Pius V),** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

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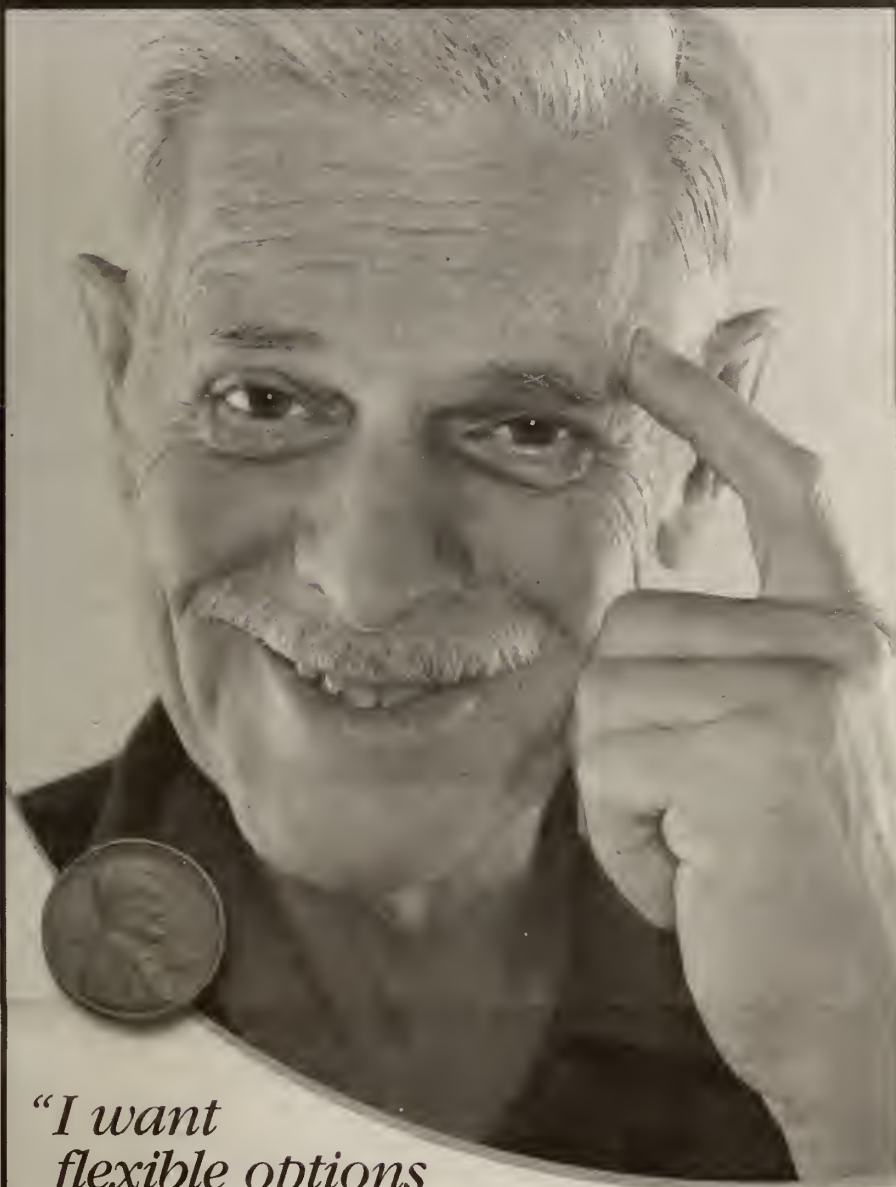


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'Revelations' hardly revealing

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Primetime meets end time in "Revelations," a limited dramatic series dealing with the apocalyptic prophecies foretold in the last book of the Bible, premiering Wednesday, April 13, 9-10 p.m. EDT on NBC.

Like "The Da Vinci Code" — whose phenomenal success no doubt weighed in NBC's decision to produce the six-episode series — "Revelations" is good storytelling wrapped around bad theology.

Bill Pullman stars as Richard Massey, a Harvard professor and avowed skeptic, grief-stricken by the ritualistic murder of his young daughter by Satanist Isaiah Haden (played to villainous perfection by Michael Massee).

Natascha McElhone co-stars as Sister Josepha Montifiore, an Oxford-educated nun who travels the globe verifying miracles. A strong, intelligent and devout nun on network TV? Sound too good to be true? It is.

Midway through the first hour we learn that — though a true believer — she is a member of a borderline heretical order, at odds with the Vatican, whose superior glibly remarks that "blasphemy has its place."

Brought together by a comatose girl who speaks in tongues and appears to be channeling the spirit of Massey's dead daughter, the unlikely duo joins forces to investigate a series of strange occurrences which seem to herald a final showdown between the forces of good and evil.

Over the next five weeks, their investigation will take them from the United States to Rome and eventually the Holy Land, leading them to a mysterious child who may be either the Son of God or the Antichrist, signaling that Armageddon is already in play.

In the course of their travels, her faith challenges his dogmatic belief that everything can be explained by science.

Created by David Seltzer ("The Omen"), "Revelations" feels much like "The

X-Files," with Pullman playing the part of the skeptical Scully to McElhone's more open-minded Mulder.

The glossy production value and performances are solid. But unfortunately the show's underlying theology ranges from bogus to blasphemous.

In one scene, Sister Montifiore explains that "the Bible has left a blank to be filled in by man" and that if what is unfolding truly is the end of days it can be forestalled by human efforts. In another, her superior — suggesting that Rome feels threatened by their order's heterodox beliefs — poses the question, "What validity would the pope have, as a conduit to Jesus, if Jesus were no longer in heaven listening to his prayers?"

With such questionable dialogue it is difficult to believe the producers' contentions that they consulted with biblical and theological experts during the show's writing stage.

Like the "Left Behind" franchise, the ominous-toned series takes a strict literalist approach to the scriptural source material, which, while lending itself to dramatic storytelling (plagues, pestilence, global destruction), ignores the traditionally held church position that much of the apocalyptic text is to be understood symbolically and that its message is ultimately one of hope and consolation.

On a positive note, it is good to see a network put its marketing muscle behind an overtly religious TV show which takes issues of faith and doubt seriously, and — at least based on the first episode — reverently. If nothing else, series like "Revelations" and CBS' "Joan of Arcadia" help to bring religion into the wider pop-culture conversation.

The show's creators have hinted that — should ratings merit — there may be more "Revelations" to come. With the world possibly ending in five weeks, a second season would be a neat trick indeed.

DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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BRIDGING THE GAPS

Social justice workshop to highlight helping others

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — "As the gulf between the rich and the working poor grows wider, it becomes more evident that we must be in solidarity with the poor," Augustinian Father John Deegan said.

Father Deegan, director of the justice and peace office of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in Villanova, Penn., will present "Catholic Social Teachings: Global Issues; Local Implications," at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley April 30.

The workshop is free and open to the public.

"It is important for the faithful not only to know the principles which underline their faith, but also to learn how they can practice that faith in their local community," Father Deegan said. "The faithful of North Carolina know their community best."

"The workshop is an opportunity for them to prayerfully reflect on the social teaching of the church and develop a model that will help them put into practice the richness of that teaching," he said.

The workshop is sponsored by the Augustinian friars and the Smoky Mountain Vicariate through a grant from the FSC (Christian Brothers) Foundation. According to Father George Kloster, vicar forane of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate and pastor of St. William Church in

Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, the workshop's objectives are to:

Review Catholic social teaching; build bridges between those who have "fallen through the cracks" (the poor and disadvantaged) and those who can help them; learn how to influence those who develop public policy; and learn how to advocate for those impacted by global issues with global implications, such as people who lose their jobs when factories close and jobs go elsewhere.

"As a practical application of the teachings, I will share with the participants a model we are in the process of establishing which is called ADROP (Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor)," Father Deegan said.

"This model involves local faith communities assessing the needs of poor or voiceless in their communities, learning what is already being done and by whom, identifying resources that can be matched with unmet needs and collaborating in the delivery of resources to needy populations," he said.

This model follows the example of St. Thomas of Villanova himself. The Web site of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova notes that, appointed archbishop of Valencia, Spain, in 1545, the Augustinian friar "first visited each of his parishes to see for himself what the needs of his people were. Then he used the income of his affluent archdiocese to set up social programs

on behalf of the poor and the rejected."

The Web site adds that St. Thomas "established boarding schools and high schools. For young girls he provided dowries, enabling them to be married in dignity. For the hungry, he turned his bishop's palace into a kind of soup kitchen. For the homeless he provided a place to sleep, offering them the shelter of his own home. It is thus for good reason that the common folk called him the 'Beggar Bishop' and 'Father of the Poor.'"

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DEFENDING THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE

Tribunal defender reflects on 30 years of service

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, there was a lot of work to be done — offices to be staffed, ministries to be created. The first offices of the fledgling diocese were located on the grounds of St. Patrick Cathedral, with fewer than 10 employees on staff.

Mary Lou Hildreth was the first employee to work with Father Justin Pechulis in the diocesan Tribunal Office.

"It was a lucky strike for me, because I had never worked before," Hildreth said.

Hildreth did not have a degree in canon law, so she received her training in Atlanta, meeting weekly with a priest who taught her about the inner workings of a tribunal office, or church court, which handles the marriage nullity process under a set of procedures and laws established as part of the universal law of the church.

She also attended workshops across the country.

"I was educated — (the diocese) sent me to school two or three times a year," she said. "We had all sorts of support from the bishop and the chancellor."

In the earliest years of working in the diocesan tribunal, Hildreth functioned as both the advocate for the cases for marriage nullity and as the defender of the bond. Today, the role of advocate is fulfilled by

various lay people and permanent deacons in the diocese.

Hildreth served as the defender of the bond for more than three decades until her retirement in February. As defender of the bond, Hildreth's duty was to defend the marriage. Unlike civil law, the laws of the Catholic Church assume that every marriage is valid.

From that first year, when the tribunal handled only one nullity case, the office now handles about 400 cases each year, finishing between 50 and 75 cases. About 10 percent of all marriage nullity cases are denied by the Tribunal Office.

Hildreth said she enjoyed her work in the Tribunal Office immediately. Working in the tribunal was "wonderful," she said.

"Some people enjoy the work, and others don't," she said. "You'll see them in other tribunals — they'll only stay for six months or a year."

Stepping in

Filling Hildreth's shoes as defender of the bond is Sister Sheila Richardson, a convert to the Catholic faith and an eremitic of St. Augustine.

"Mary Lou was an architect of the way the Tribunal Office operates today," Sister Richardson said. "She is well known and acknowledged for her work in the tribunal."

Sister Richardson graduated from



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Lou Hildreth retired in February after more than 30 years of dedicated work in the diocesan Tribunal Office. She served as the defender of the bond, defending marriages being investigated for nullity.

Whittier College School of Law and practiced civil law for a major corporation for more than 10 years. She studied theology at Mt. Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore., and received her degree in canon law from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario.

Sister Richardson retired from the practice of law to study theology and to pursue a vocation in the consecrated life.

Sister Richardson sees her job in the tribunal as a way to free up diocesan priests to serve parishes exclusively, rather than dividing their time between parishes and the tribunal.

As marriage nullity allows divorced people to receive the sacraments again, Sister Richardson thinks of the tribunal as a

"reconciliation ministry."

"The mission of the tribunal is justice and healing," said Sister Richardson. "It is also serving the divorced people of the diocese."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information regarding the marriage nullity process, contact the diocesan Tribunal Office at (704) 370-3342 or visit www.charlottediocese.org/marriage-tribunal.html.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Theology on Tap

Program helps young people discover God in new way

The so-called new Theology on Tap is not so new after all. It may be new to me, who studied theology a long time ago, but it is old for the young theologians.

We know that this new approach is 24 years old since Father John Cusik, director of young adult ministry in Chicago, began this movement in 1981. Few more details appear in America magazine (2003), to which I refer.

There is nothing unusual about having a gathering of young men and women, laughing and talking in an informal setting while munching snacks and sipping beer. What may seem unusual is the fact that the gap generation (ages 20-35) seemed to be missing from the whole picture of the church. Where were they?

I am positive they were somewhere and nowhere to be found: they were hungry for the "word" appealing to their spiritual needs and they were thirsty for running water, rather than stagnant water.

The quest for God may have taken different approaches throughout the centuries and whenever theology brings you closer to God, that's good theology indeed. While the Theology on Tap program points to a specific format, which requires balanced and learned speakers and clear topics, there is an inner struggle in the attendees: first, to maintain and develop quality relationships with ourselves, God and others; second, to study the Scripture as it applies to our everyday lives; third, to make our Catholic identity a way of life rather than an ideology.

By reflecting on this movement, I can see three stages of the ongoing process: awakening, illumination and discovery. "God is calling me. He made me. He cares for me. I must wake up to this reality and put in my 5 cents or the whole dollar, to be generous."

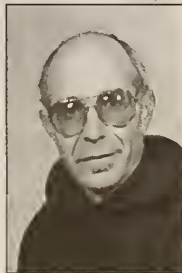
Once we find ourselves in this dynamic process of being and becoming, we receive the light needed to make our journey reasonable and less risky. Natural reason, technology or marketing skills would not damage this process, but they would not help either. God, Scripture and prayer are the main sources of the illumination needed to go through the tunnel of life.

The heavens may tell us of the glory of God, the earth may declare his handiwork, but neither nature nor reason can tell us where God is, if He is not in us. Science, by nature, is unable to tell us where to find the forgiveness of sins, where to find the key to unlock the secret of our destiny.

The final stage of the quest is discovery. Having awoken from sleep, having received the light from God, we discover that we are "worshiping human beings." That's what we were in the first place. Why did it take so long to discover what we were?

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN
AURILIA,
OFM Cap.



Discovery is fascinating because it is to see something that was there all along but hidden. Discovering Christ in our lives is exciting because we experience a beautiful reality that was always there, probably sleeping or in coma; then Christ, with a surprising smile, says: "John, why did it take you so long?"

God rang our doorbell many times. We even opened the door and said, "God, you must be mistaken. It's not me you want, it's my next-door neighbor."

Eventually God rings again and says, "I am positive it's you I want. Open your eyes."

At that very moment, we experience the joy of discovering God after he manifested himself to us through the Eucharist, sacraments and prayer.

Theology on Tap makes our young men and women discover God on their own terms and needs. Eventually their discussion, insight and process become faith, hope and love, and a way of life rather than a way of thinking.

The old-fashioned way, "Frank went to church on Sunday, but he went to hell on Tuesday for what he did on Monday," doesn't appeal any more. These young adults feel that the church is going to them as much as they go to the church.

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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A light in the world

Pope John Paul II was hero, inspiration

Pope John Paul II walked with me through my adolescence and into adulthood. As distractions came into my life, by his example, he would remind me of the things that really matter. There would be a flash of him on the television and it always helped me to get back on track.

The Holy Father was for me a constant figure of hope, a lighthouse in the distance, and a friend in times of confusion.

I remember the day he was chosen as the vicar of Christ. I felt the pride, not only as a Catholic, but also as a Polish American, familiar with the history of a country that had overcome enormous struggles but would not lose faith. In my youth, I was the recipient of many degrading "Pollock" jokes but his papacy ended those jokes. He was my hero.

Pope John Paul II showed up on the scene when I really needed a positive role model. As a teen-ager, I moved from a Catholic neighborhood to North Carolina where the percentage of Catholics was very small. But how could I feel sorry for myself or give up? I watched the pope travel all over the world and meet with so many people who did not share his religious belief. He would be my example, always showing charity as he courageously proclaimed the truth.

He demonstrated for me what it takes to be a good Catholic, even during those times when I stood alone in my faith, facing ridicule and contempt. His gentleness reminded me that what we do and how we do it really matters.

Guest Column

KATHY
SCHMUGGE
GUEST COLUMNIST



I believe every Catholic has a story or a certain stirring in the soul that resulted from Pope John Paul II. For me, he was my friend, a family member whom I looked up to with love and trust. He was there to fill my heart with hope when the world seemed to speak only of darkness.

But as we all know, it is very difficult to let go of someone we love, even when we know they have gone to a far greater place — the very place of which the pope reminded us all to never lose sight.

Some say that he will go down in history as "Pope John Paul the Great," but for me he has already won that title. His greatness was his ability to love unceasingly. When I grow weary in my daily struggles, unsure if I will be able to finish the race, he is always ahead of me saying, "Keep on going, we're almost there."

Now in my mind's eye, I see him standing with Christ on the finish line and with confidence, I see them both cheering us all on.

Kathy Schmugge is a correspondent for The Catholic News & Herald.



The case of Terry Schiavo

Are those who cannot speak in danger?

The case of Terri Schiavo is not uncommon.

The whole country was transfixed by her life and death because nearly every one of us will have to deal with these end-of-life issues sometime. I have sat with dozens of families making these difficult decisions.

In the abstract people often say, "I would not want to live like Terri Schiavo." However, in the concrete we often think differently.

A few years ago my uncle Bill, a priest, was injured in an accident. He no longer could speak or swallow. His life was sustained for nearly two years on a feeding tube similar to Terri Schiavo's. It was a graced time.

He eventually died of other causes, but he did not starve to death.

If Terri Schiavo's husband, Michael, were a practicing Catholic, this case never would have been in the courts, the Florida legislature or the U.S. Congress. He would have consulted the church's teaching on end-of-life issues. He would have allowed the feeding to continue.

St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6 not to bring our disputes before secular judges when they can be settled by recourse to the "holy ones" (i.e. to believers).

The courts and legislators never should have been involved in the case. As a result of their involvement, we now have crossed the line into state-ordered euthanasia.

This outcome is part of the slippery slope

Parish Diary

FATHER
PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



into a culture of death that was begun with legalized abortion, continued through assisted suicide in Oregon and now has moved to court-ordered "euthanasia" in Florida.

Catholic teaching sees life as good. We hold life as stewards, not masters.

We do not have the right to take our own life, and we do not have the right to take the life of another innocent person by assisted suicide or euthanasia.

However, we are not obligated to use extraordinary means to preserve life. We can refuse surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, drug therapy, etc.

Just what is considered "extraordinary" will vary. What is ordinary in an American hospital room might be extraordinary in a Sudan refugee camp.

However, we always are obligated not to withhold ordinary means of sustaining life, which the church has defined as food, water and air.

We do not decide what kinds of life are worth living. Innocent human life is to be

preserved even when the "quality" of life appears low to "healthy" people.

Even people in a "persistent vegetative state" should be given life-sustaining ordinary means. Once these procedures are begun, we should not terminate them unless they are burdensome to the patient, counterproductive or useless (e.g. the patient is dying anyway).

In the Schiavo case they were clearly not useless. They kept her alive. They were not burdensome to her or particularly burdensome to society. They were not counterproductive.

This case puts us in a dangerous position. We now have a case in which a judge has ordered the death of an innocent person based on "hearsay" evidence.

Terri Schiavo never signed an advanced health care directive. She never appointed a health care proxy. All the judge had to go on was hearsay evidence from her husband that "she would not want to live this way."

That evidence was contradicted by her parents and the rest of her family.

Courts now are deciding what kind of life is worth sustaining. Maybe they now will decide that the retarded, the insane and people with degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's are not worth sustaining.

As our population ages and medical costs rise, this puts every sick person who cannot speak for himself or herself at risk.

The parish parking lot planner's auto headache

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



This is true: I just spent more for a tank of gas than I paid for my first car.

OK, I admit \$45 in 1966 went a lot further than it does today. As a matter of fact, a \$45, 1953 Ford Fairlane and \$5 in gas could get a 17-year-old around town for quite a while in those days.

Regardless, if we average Joes and Janes are concerned about today's escalating fuel prices, just think what it is doing to parish parking lot planners. These dedicated people have been working diligently to repaint parking spaces and re-enforce asphalt to accommodate the enormous vehicles parishioners have been buying to satisfy the craving to own a mode of transport larger than the average commuter train.

Now fuel prices threaten to dampen sales of these monuments to metal. So parish parking lot people are caught in a field of confusion. Should they start repainting to welcome the new hybrid fuel sippers? Should they consider mapping out different sections of parking lots for different types of vehicles?

Are pastors really giving thought to scheduling Masses for classes of car owners rather than language groups? Can it possibly be true that some rural parishes are using Road War Utility Vehicles as mission chapels?

Tensions are rising.

One the one hand, many parishioners who have been driving traditionalist cars (designed to hold just a half dozen or so adults) have been increasingly intimidated by the Road War Utility Vehicles.

For the record, my personal favorite is the Schwarzenegermobile. Made popular by the governor of California and the war in Iraq, this massive machine resembles a chrome cargotainer with earthmover wheels and tires.

There are rumors that some Catholic Schwarzenegermobile owners have complained that parish parking lot speed bumps are too wimpy. They've requested "speed humps" the size of small volcanoes so they can "catch some air" on their way out of the parking lot.

The latter (the cars, not the parishioners) overlap edges of outdated parking spaces and feature threateningly tinted windows and hubcaps the size of sonar stations.

There have been rumors of Road War Utility Vehicle owners stepping out of their vehicles onto the shoulders of fellow parishioners while pretending not to see them. However, the RWUV Catholics counter that this can easily happen when someone is silly enough to park under them.

At this time it is unknown if the bishops will address the issue at their meeting in June.

Terri Schiavo and the echoes of abortion

JUDGES SHOULD NOT HAVE POWER TO ORDER DEATHS OF INNOCENTS

Terri Schiavo died the morning of this writing, March 31, after having been refused food and water for two weeks. In the horrific treatment of her — which columnist Nat Hentoff, an expert on the First Amendment, calls the longest public execution in American history — we can hear the echoes of the abortion mentality.

First, the question asked repeatedly in press reports is, "What would Terri have wanted?"

With no more evidence than the word of her disaffected husband, a Florida judge agreed with his conclusion that she would not have wanted to live this way. The appeals court agreed, saying the question was whether Terri "would choose to continue the constant nursing care and the supporting tubes" or would "wish to permit a natural death process to take its course and for her family members and loved ones to be free to continue their lives."

This type of calculation happens every day when prenatal tests show a possible disability in an unborn child. Our culture has taught women to ask, "Would the child want to live this way?" And to decide that the compassionate answer is, "No."

A recent "no regrets" article on abortion in Salon.com showed one woman's thinking:

"I did not want to raise a genetically compromised child," she wrote. "I did not want my children ... compelled to care for their brother after I died. I wanted a genetically perfect baby, and because that was something I could control, I chose to end his life."

This is why disability rights groups have spoken out against selective abortion, and came out in force in favor of saving Terri Schiavo. They are challenging the notion that a life such as Terri's is meaningless — or worse, robs others of their freedom. They are fighting the culture-of-death perception that death is better than living with a disability. And they should know.

There is another parallel to abortion. The Florida judge ordered not only that Terri Schiavo's feeding tube be removed, but also that no attempts be made to provide her with food or water. Guards standing watch at her hospice room door made sure her parents did not wet her parched lips.

In other words, it was not a right to remove medical treatment that was granted, but an order that Terri Schiavo be made to die.

In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court said the Constitution gives a woman the right "to terminate her pregnancy." But 30 years of court rulings reveal an even more terrible truth about *Roe v. Wade*.

In striking down New Jersey's par-

Life Issues Forum

CATHY
CLEAVER
RUSE, ESQ.
GUEST COLUMNIST



tial-birth abortion ban, for example, federal judge Maryanne Barry said a fetus is not "in the process of being 'born' at the time of its demise" because "[a] woman seeking an abortion is plainly not seeking to give birth." In other words, a child marked for death is something wholly different from a "wanted" child in the same physical location.

Every human life has incalculable worth and meaning, no matter its age or condition. No judge should have the power to order the death of a weak and helpless human being — in or out of the womb.

May the soul of Terri Schiavo rest in peace.

Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq. is the director of planning and information for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Papal tailor gearing up for new pontiff

Gammarelli's shop has served almost every 20th-century pope

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — When "Habemus papam!" (We have a pope!) rings out from the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, most of the faithful will be waiting for the name of the 265th leader of the Catholic Church, their upturned gazes fixed on his face.

Filippo Gammarelli will be anxiously scrutinizing the new pontiff's body.

As papal tailor, Gammarelli will be more concerned with measurements and mental calculations for the outfits the new pope will need in the days following the election.

While it is not certain the next pope will call upon his services, Gammarelli's shop — founded in 1798 by his forebear, Antonio Gammarelli — served every 20th-century pontiff except for Pope Pius XII, who stuck with his family's tailor.

A few days before the April 18 start of the conclave, Gammarelli delivered three sets of outfits to the Vatican, identical except for size: small, medium and large.

About 10 tailors and seamstresses were racing to finish the order just 48 hours before the deadline. One woman worked only on hand-sewn buttonholes, 30 per cassock, while another employee focused his attention on more than 200 silk-covered buttons.

Each set consists of a white wool cassock with attached capelet, a white silk cassock and matching red capelet with buttons up the front, a skullcap, a sash and red leather shoes.

After the election and before the new pope's presentation to the public, he will quickly don the outfit that best approximates his size and sartorial taste.

"We hope one of them will fit, more or less," Gammarelli said in an interview with Catholic News Service in his store, located on a tiny street behind the Pan-

theon in an area chock full of stores selling clerical garb.

Pope John XXIII, one of the more rotund pontiffs in recent memory, almost burst the buttons of his first cassock, while the slender and short Pope John Paul I found even the smallest outfit too long.

When Pope John Paul II stepped onto the balcony, clad in one of the shop's white cassocks, Gammarelli breathed a sigh of relief.

"He carried himself beautifully. Before the last few years, when he began to be stooped over, he was a handsome man," Gammarelli told CNS. "He was easy to work with, very simple."

Once an order comes in from a new pope, Gammarelli and his team head to the Apostolic Palace to take measurements, which they keep on file for future requests.

Books dating back decades contain the arm, waist, inseam and head measurements of thousands of priests, bishops and cardinals, who can phone in an order from across the globe — unless, of course, weight fluctuations have impacted their sizes.

Much of the pomp and circumstance surrounding the papacy died out with Pope Paul VI, who got rid of the papal tiara and insisted on an unadorned marble slab to mark his tomb.

Likewise, the last half-century has brought a paring down of pontifical and other ecclesiastical clothing. Pope Pius abolished cardinals' silk trains, and thus also the servants trailing behind to carry them, and the decorative ermine trim and ostrich-plumed fans favored by pontiffs past went the way of the papal court and portable throne that footmen carried through the crowds.

Which is not to say ermine trim might not come back someday: "The pope can have whatever he wants," said Gammarelli.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Annibale Gammarelli (right) stands with his nephew April 12 outside the family's tailor shop in Rome where papal vestments are displayed in the shop's window. Gammarelli's shop, founded in 1798 by Antonio Gammarelli, has served every 20th-century pontiff except for Pope Pius XII. A few days before the April 18 start of the conclave, the shop delivered papal outfits in three different sizes to the Vatican.

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APRIL 22, 2005

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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biography

BORDERING AMERICA

Minuteman patrol called 'affront' to nation's history of hospitality

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) —

A coalition of religious groups decried the Minuteman Project along the Arizona-Mexico border as "an affront to internationally protected rights and to our nation's history of hospitality."

An April 13 statement from the religious groups said: "As Christians, we believe that we are called to welcome the stranger. We recognize the gifts that migrants bring to our communities. Those who sacrifice in order to assure the survival of their families are to be admired and applauded."

Six of the nine religious organizations signing the statement were Catholic.

The Minuteman Project, described on its Web site as "a citizens' neighborhood watch along our border," said volunteers would

See MINUTEMAN, page 13

Habemus Papam!



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI, elected the 265th pope April 19, waves from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican after his election was announced to the faithful cheering below.

Cardinal Ratzinger, guardian of church doctrine, elected 265th pope

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the 78-year-old guardian of the church's doctrine for the last 24 years, was elected the 265th pope and took the name Benedict XVI.

Appearing at the central window of St. Peter's Basilica April 19, the newly elected pope smiled as he was greeted by a cheering, flag-waving crowd of nearly 100,000 people.

"After the great John Paul II, the cardinals elected me, a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord," Pope Benedict said, in a brief talk broadcast around the world.

"I am consoled by the fact that the Lord can work and act even through insufficient

See POPE, page 6



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Concertgoers pray in thanksgiving for blessings received during the festival for Our Lady of the Incarnation held at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton April 15-16.

FEAST OF FAITH

Hispanic parishioners celebrate heritage, community *Annual festival brings many together*

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MORGANTON — As eyes were closed in prayer and tears streamed down some faces, more than 300 people prayed in thanksgiving, remembering Huehuetenango, the Guatemalan state from which many of them

had emigrated.

They packed St. Charles Borromeo Church's parish hall for the April 16 concert concluding their annual festival for Huehuetenango's patroness, Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación (Our Lady of the Incarnation).

See FESTIVAL, page 5

Host auctioned on eBay, allegedly consecrated by Pope John Paul II

CATHOLIC LEADERS
OFFENDED OVER
'DISRESPECTFUL'
ACTIONS

SIoux CITY, Iowa (CNS) — Church officials in the Sioux City Diocese said they were deeply offended when they found out that on eBay, an Internet auction site, an

See EBAY, page 13

Culture Watch

Papal memorial card sales
top half-million; 'Joan'
creator and crime

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Perspectives

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Church serves diverse
community

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PEACE ON THE RUN



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Msgr. Liberio Andreatta carries the torch and Brother Ibrahim Faltas carries an Olympic-type flag past barriers at the Jerusalem-Bethlehem military checkpoint during the second annual peace run in the West Bank April 14. The race included Palestinians, Israelis and Italians and was dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II recalled during West Bank peace run

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Some 75 runners participated in the second annual West Bank peace run, which this year was dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II.

"We have returned, remembering the words of Pope John Paul II: Do not be afraid," said Msgr. Liberio Andreatta, administrator delegate of the "Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi," a church-sponsored pilgrimage agency, at the send-off ceremony in Nativty Square April 14.

"Do not be afraid and open the door for Jesus Christ, and let this door be a door of love, a door of hope, a door of peace," said the monsignor.

"In this marathon we run on the legs of peace, bringing peace from Bethlehem to Jerusalem," said Msgr. Andreatta, who helped initiate the first peace run last year.

He noted that the six-mile run follows the late pope's call for Catholics to visit the Holy Land.

Some 40 Italian athletes accompanied Msgr. Andreatta to the Holy Land for this year's run.

"I am Catholic, and this is a good way of sharing with other people my belief and to become aware of this situation through sports. We can try to give an example by our actions. Little things can sometimes add a big (step)," said Elisa Sabattini, 23, of Modena, Italy, who was on her first visit to the area with her parents and grandfather.

Photographers crowded around the group of Palestinian and Italian runners at the starting line as they began the run at a leisurely, journalist-friendly, pace.

The six-mile route passed from Nativty Square along the main road out of Bethlehem — the final section of which was patrolled by Israeli soldiers — through the looming, nearly completed Israeli separation barrier at the entrance of the city.

The runners came to a near standstill several times near the wall, allowing photographers to snap their pictures.

Participants then ran undisturbed through the Israeli checkpoint and were met on the other side by some 25 Israeli runners and officials from the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, who released helium-filled balloons into the air. About a dozen Israeli schoolchildren sang Hebrew peace songs and tossed flowers onto the road.

Just outside Jerusalem, Palestinian George Michel of Bethlehem passed the marathon torch to Israeli Faloro Eyal.

After some of the runners chanted "shalom-salaam," the Italian athletes chanted "Giovanni Paulo II."

In Jerusalem, the runners were greeted by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the Vatican's representative to Israel and the Palestinian territories, who thanked them for their "small, but meaningful gesture" for peace.

Teens' rings a symbol of their commitment to chastity

DETROIT (CNS) — Bridgit DeCarlo, 17, said she will wait to marry someone who will love and respect her for her decision to abstain from sex until marriage.

"People ask me if I'll wait until college, but it doesn't matter. I'll wait either way," she said. "If he loves me, then he'll respect my decision."

DeCarlo, a youth group member at St. Hubert Church in Harrison Township, wears a silver ring symbolizing the fact she made a commitment to abstinence during the "Silver Ring Thing" event held in March.

What began as an event for St. Hubert Church's youth group of 72 turned into an interdenominational event that drew more than 1,000 attendees, including parents and youths. More than 470 youths pledged to abstain from sex.

The idea for the chastity ring came from a story about a bride that Kevin Skalecki, co-youth minister at St. Hubert,

heard from his sister.

As the bride walked down the aisle, she stopped to tell her father that she had kept the promise she made to him to abstain from sex before she was married. She then gave him the ring she had worn to symbolize that commitment.

Impressed, Skalecki researched and discovered the "Silver Ring Thing" idea, an abstinence program geared toward teens in response to them being bombarded by a sex-obsessed culture.

Parents were also encouraged to become involved because they are the ones who can continue emphasizing the message on chastity long after such an event is over, Skalecki said.

The "Silver Ring Thing" involves a multimedia presentation, talks on sex and silver promise rings that symbolize young people's decision to say no to premarital sex. Participants receive regular e-mails aimed at supporting them in their decision.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Franciscan House of Discernment*, 801 Bromley Rd., invites all young women to a "get-acquainted" evening April 26, 6:30-9 p.m. Share a movie and popcorn with the Sisters of St. Francis. For information, call (704) 376-2010 or (704) 607-2235.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more information, call Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for *caregivers of a family member with memory loss* meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — The Faith Formation Commis-

sion of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Johnston St. and Skeet Club Rd., will present a program on the *Eucharist* April 27 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Come and learn more about the Eucharist echoing the theme of the Synod of Bishops in October 2005: "The Eucharist: source and summit of the life and mission of the Church." For more information, contact the faith formation office at (336) 885-5210.

GREENSBORO — Anyone currently unemployed or concerned about their present employment situation is invited to attend the *Re-employment Support Group* held in the Parish Life Center, Room 8, of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will meet April 28 and May 12 and 26, 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, call Colleen Assal, (294) 4696, ext. 226. Anyone with knowledge of job opportunities is asked to call Colleen to share them with the group.

HIGH POINT — All are invited to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's first *International Festival* on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 4-8 p.m., at the church, 4145 Johnson St. The festival will feature music, dance and exhibits from a variety of nations, and food from the Philippines, Mexico, Vietnam, Poland and Turkey. Admission is free, but everyone is invited to bring a dish, preferably representing a foreign country, to share. For details, contact Larry Kwan at hlkwann@lexcominc.net or Rita Leonard at (336) 454-3758.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford Division, Our Lady of Knock, is planning a trip to the *Franciscan Prayer Center* in May. Those interested in attending this outing are encouraged to call Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014 for further information.

HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 328-B Woodsway Ln. NW, will host *Landings*, an outreach program for those who have left the Catholic Church and are thinking of returning. Landings will

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FROM THE VATICAN

Still a bureaucracy: Normal paperwork continued its flow at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To the extent that Vatican offices are bureaucracies, the normal flow of paper, correspondence and meeting planning continued even when there was no pope.

However, the publication of documents, the nomination of new bishops and the approval of statutes for Catholic universities and religious orders were suspended. Anything issued in the name of the Vatican or in the name of the pope was not only suspended, but must be approved by the next pope.

"The general rule is that all ordinary business continues," said the secretary of one Vatican congregation. "Like in most bureaucracies, most of our business is ordinary business."

Commissions and subcommittees continued to meet, reports continued to be prepared, letters were answered and Vatican officials tidied their desks to be able to inform the new pope about exactly where their vari-

ous projects stood, officials said.

The final approvals for beatification signed by Pope John Paul II were still valid, said an official of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, although an April 24 beatification ceremony had been postponed and another on May 15 may be pushed back to accommodate the new pope's schedule.

Another Vatican official said he was "pretty sure" the abridged version of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," which Pope John Paul had commissioned, would be released as planned during World Youth Day. A project like the so-called miniccatechism, which was almost complete when the pope died and which does not establish new teaching or norms, is unlikely to be delayed, he said.

While no final decisions could be made during the interregnum, most Vatican officials expected the new pope, St. Benedict XVI, would confirm most of the work begun under Pope John Paul.

meet Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., through May 28. Anyone interested in participating should call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church. Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalsess@charter.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 25 — 7 p.m. Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving and Prayer for our New Holy Father St. Leo Church, Winston-Salem

April 27 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville

April 28 — 2:30 p.m. Mass Senior Spring Fling sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries St. Mark Church, Huntersville

April 29 — 7 p.m. Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving and Prayer for our new Holy Father Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

April 30 — 5:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation St. Barnabas Church, Arden

May 2 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

May 4 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

Dying pope taught staff valuable lessons, top aide says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In addition to thanking God for the ministry of Pope John Paul II, Vatican officials offered thanks for the lessons they learned as he was dying, said one of his top aides.

"In the months marked by the progressive decline of his health," Pope John Paul's "simplicity and poverty" became even clearer, said Argentine Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, assistant secretary of state.

"It is up to us in a special way to safeguard and make fruitful that which this extraordinary pope gave to the church and the whole world over the course of his life and at the moment of his death," the archbishop told Vatican officials April 13 as he presided over a memorial Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

The Mass, part of the church's official nine-day mourning period, was open to the public, but was entrusted especially to members of the Roman Curia.

Archbishop Sandri encouraged the officials to use the time to reflect on "the precious heritage he left."

"Those who were able to share the daily activity of the pope were witnesses to his profound love for the Eucharist," he said. "Before making important decisions, he usually would spend long periods of time before the Blessed Sacrament in his private chapel, bringing with him the dossiers to examine."

And, the archbishop said, those who were able to visit Pope John Paul in his apartment in the last weeks of his life "could not help but experience a sense of admiration for the modesty of the furnishings that surrounded him, as well as for the humility and simplicity, the sense of detachment and the total availability with which he abandoned himself into the hands of God."

Archbishop Sandri said "the great example and the precious teaching that the deceased pontiff left to those of us called to work in the Roman Curia" was "an example of simplicity and detachment, of faithful and disinterested service in the Lord's vineyard, of constant openness and docile adhesion to the will of God."

'Our Lady of the Underpass'



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

A man walks up and touches an image some people think looks like the Virgin Mary seen underneath the Kennedy Expressway in Chicago April 18. Many Chicagoans came by to view the image, pray or take pictures of it.

Some say image on highway underpass looks like Blessed Mother

CHICAGO (CNS) — Passers-by pulled up to look.

Some pulled out camera phones. Others returned with votive candles. And they asked each other, "Can you see her?"

A couple of dozen people at a time stopped April 18 under the Kennedy Expressway overpass where an image some called "Our Lady of the Underpass" drew enough attention to warrant traffic patrols by Chicago police officers and members of the Illinois State Police.

Officials said the image on the concrete wall appeared to have been caused by salt and other chemicals dripping from the roadway above.

Chicago archdiocesan officials said

they did not intend to conduct an official inquiry into the image and have not been requested to do so.

Generally, apparitions are considered to be private revelations, according to a statement Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki released in 1999 in response to another image of Mary. At the time, then-Father Paprocki was chancellor of the archdiocese.

While the church officials sometimes inquire into the authenticity of an apparition, such determinations "do not seek to prove or disprove the genuineness of a particular appearance of Mary, since this pertains to the personal religious experience of the individuals experiencing the appearance and to the church as a whole," he wrote.

EXALTING FAITH

Youth event draws area teens for praise, adoration

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — More than 200 area teen-agers gathered recently to give praise and share in eucharistic adoration.

High school students from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle, Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, Holy Family Church in Clemmons and Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem joined teens from St. Leo the Great Church's youth ministry for Exalt Night March 6.

Also in attendance as part of their catechetical program were confirmation candidates from St. Leo the Great Church.

"Exalt Night was held to build energy in our youth ministry program, honor our confirmation candidates and share in the celebration of the Year of the Eucharist with our teens and those from other parishes," said John Egan, St. Leo the Great Church youth minister.

Egan said he got the idea for Exalt Night from attending a Life Teen conference.

Exalt Night featured a Mass for the

youths as well as eucharistic procession; live music and praise by the parish's Life Teen band, Foolish of the World; a talk on discipleship by speaker Elizabeth Wirth; and a film clip of last year's Catholic high school youth conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

More than 40 adults, including Egan and Father Thomas Kessler, pastor, as well as the parish youth ministry's CORE team, made Exalt Night possible.

"It's natural to join others in worship and praise," said Egan. "You don't need to be taught it, just like you don't need to be taught how to cheer at a basketball game."

"We all got closer to God and had fun," said Dane Harington, one of the confirmation candidates.

"I had been unsure and doubting a lot but the time we spent in adoration made me realize God isn't the 'big guy upstairs' watching my every move and criticizing; He can be a friend, too," said fellow candidate Elizabeth Green.

Speaker Elizabeth Wirth, a junior at North Carolina School of the Arts, spoke to the teens about her experience with the 1999 shootings

Discussing faith



COURTESY PHOTO BY PEG RUBLE

More than 200 junior high school students celebrated stories of Christbearers — witnesses past and present to Jesus' message — and enjoyed the fellowship of their peers during the Extreme Faith event held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point March 19. Workshops included artistic creation of icons, issues-oriented skits presented by Girl Scouts and conversations about the culture of faith.

at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., where she lost her best friend.

Wirth explained how she became very angry with God during that time. One day, however, she said she heard a Gospel message of "come and follow me" that changed her feelings, allowing her to leave her burdens

for God and to follow him.

Since moving to Winston-Salem, Wirth has become very active in the parish's youth ministry CORE team.

St. Leo the Great Church youth ministry plans to host another Exalt Night in the summer.



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOHN EGAN

Foolish of the World, the Life Teen band at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, performs during Exalt Night at the parish March 6. More than 200 high school students gathered to give praise and join in eucharistic adoration.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Hispanics celebrate heritage, community

FESTIVAL, from page 1

Although many were from Huehuetenango, some, from other Latin American countries, were "here just to stick together for this feast," said Maximiliano Monroy, who comes from Totonacapan, Guatemala.

This was the fourth year that Guatemalan parishioners observed the feast at St. Charles Borromeo Church. The festival, which began in Huehuetenango in the 1800s and which is associated there with the feast of the Annunciation (March 25), is celebrated about 15 days after Easter.

A number of the women wore their colorfully woven cortes (skirts) and elaborately, brightly embroidered güipils (pronounced we-peels), or blouses. A statue of Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación

in the church was clothed in the same traditional dress.

The festival opened on April 15 with a welcome to the attendees. Ricardo Veloz, coordinator of Hispanic youth ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, gave a reflection on how the diocese's Hispanic community has grown.

At 6:30 a.m. Saturday, people gathered in the church for "las mañanitas," songs to Mary and the Catholic Church. Father Pablo Hernandez-Chum, who is originally from Huehuetenango, had come from Guatemala for the festival. He celebrated Mass Saturday morning.

The festivalgoers shared breakfast and played soccer. That evening, before the concert began, everyone prayed and Father Hernandez-Chum offered a reflection on Mary and the wedding feast of Cana.

Then it was time for the upbeat religious music, played by Santo Domingo and Martha y Micaela Rodriguez of Morganton; Coro Espíritu Joven (Youthful Spirit Group) of Charlotte; and Coro la Encarnación from Delaware.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.



PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Above: Posing in their güipils and cortes, women gather in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton April 16 with the statue of Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación (Our Lady of the Incarnation). Pictured are Emiliana Rodriguez (beside the statue), Virginia Barreno holding 10-month-old Kely Rodriguez, Maria Mendoza, Aura Perez, Brenda Zépez and Cristina Rodriguez.

Right: A child gets an early start on learning about her Guatemalan heritage at the festival at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.



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Cardinal Ratzinger elected 265th pope

POPE, from page 1

instruments, and I especially entrust myself to your prayers," he said.

"In the joy of the risen Lord, and trusting in his permanent help, we go forward. The Lord will help us, and Mary his most holy mother is on our side. Thank you," he said.

Then Pope Benedict gave his blessing to the city of Rome and to the world. He stood and listened to the endless applause that followed, smiling and raising his hands above his head.

Pope Benedict was the first German pope since Pope Victor II, who reigned from 1055-1057. It was the second consecutive conclave to elect a non-Italian pope, after Italians had held the papacy for more than 450 years.

The new pope was chosen by at least a two-thirds majority of 115 cardinals from 52 countries, who cast their ballots in secret in the Sistine Chapel.

The election came on the second day of the voting, presumably on the fourth ballot. It was a surprisingly quick conclusion of a conclave that began with many potential candidates and no clear favorite.

"The words 'habemus papam' — 'we have a pope' — have been eagerly awaited by Catholics since the conclave began April 18," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis, after celebrating a Mass of thanksgiving for the pope's election at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 19.

"The Holy Spirit has responded to our prayers for a new shepherd," said the bishop. "As we celebrate this joyous day, I ask the people of the Diocese of Charlotte to join me in prayer for Pope Benedict XVI as he begins his ministry as supreme pontiff."

The day before, Cardinal Ratzinger had opened the conclave with a stern warning about moral relativism and ideological currents that had buffeted the church in recent decades.

"The small boat of thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves — thrown from one extreme to the other: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism," he said.

"Every day new sects are created and what St. Paul says about human trickery comes true, with cunning which tries to draw people into error," he said.

Having a clear faith today is often labeled "fundamentalism," he said.

As the prefect of the Congregation for

the Doctrine of the Faith since 1981, Pope Benedict was on the front lines of numerous theological and pastoral controversies. He was described by Vatican officials who worked with him as a kind and prayerful theologian and a gentler man than the one often portrayed in the media as an inquisitor.

He made the biggest headlines when his congregation silenced or excommunicated theologians, withdrew church approval of certain books, helped rewrite liturgical translations, set boundaries on ecumenical dialogues, took over the handling of clergy sex abuse cases against minors, curbed the role of bishops' conferences and pressured religious orders to suspend wayward members.

Pope Benedict's election was announced in Latin to a waiting world from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. A massive crowd of young and old filled St. Peter's Square and welcomed the news with cheers and waves of applause.

White smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel chimney at 5:49 p.m. Rome time signaling that the cardinals had chosen a successor to Pope John Paul II. At 6:04 p.m., the bells of St. Peter's Basilica began pealing continuously to confirm the election.

At 6:40 p.m., Chilean Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, the senior cardinal in the order of deacons, appeared at the basilica balcony and intoned to the crowd in Latin: "Dear brothers and sisters, I announce to you a great joy. We have a pope."

He continued: "The most eminent and reverend lordship, Lord Joseph Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church Ratzinger."

The crowd in the square burst into applause. Some jumped for joy, some knelt to pray and some simply stood and watched.



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI stands on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica April 19 while crowds of people are gathered below in St. Peter's Square, many waving German and Vatican flags after the announcement of the election of the new pope.



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POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass as new pontiff

Pope pledges to lead church toward unity, dialogue

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — After celebrating Mass with the cardinals who elected him, Pope Benedict XVI pledged that he would lead the church on the path of unity, dialogue and evangelization.

“I turn to everyone with simplicity and affection, to assure them that the church wants to continue to build an open and sincere dialogue with them, in the search of the true good of man and society,” he said at the end of a liturgy in the Sistine Chapel April 20.

The pope read his Latin message in a clear and forceful voice, paying tribute to Pope John Paul II and outlining the priorities of his own pontificate.

Pope Benedict said that, like his predecessor, he considered the Second Vatican Council the compass for the modern church. In particular, he stressed his commitment to ecumenism and dialogue and said he was aware that “concrete gestures” were sometimes needed to promote breaking through old antagonisms.

At the same time, he said the chief priority for the modern church is to announce Christ to the world.

“The church today has to renew its awareness of the task of re-proposing to the world the voice of the one who said: ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life,’” he said.

“As he begins his ministry, the new pope knows that his task is to make the

light of Christ shine before the men and women of today: not his own light, but that of Christ,” he said.

The pope said he had been completely surprised at his election, which came on the fourth ballot of the conclave. He said he began his papacy with two emotions: a sense of “inadequacy” and the confidence that God would help him.

In his first major talk as pope, he went out of his way to say he would proceed along the lines taken by his predecessor.

“I want to forcefully affirm the strong desire to continue in the task of implementing the Second Vatican Council,” he said.

He said Vatican II’s documents were especially relevant to the modern church and today’s globalized society and that the council’s “authoritative” rereading of the Gospel would guide the church in the third millennium.

Pope Benedict also stressed the need for close unity between the pope and the world’s bishops. This collegial communion, he said, favors “unity in the faith, on which depends in large measure the effectiveness of the church’s evangelizing efforts in the modern world.”

He asked bishops to accompany him “with prayers and with advice, so that I may truly be the ‘servant of the servants of God.’”

Pope Benedict pledged to make the search for Christian unity a special priority. He called ecumenism a “compelling duty” and said he would “spare no energy” in trying to bring Christian churches together.



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, ARTURO MARI

Pope Benedict XVI raises the chalice during his first Mass as pontiff in the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel April 20. He became the 265th pope April 19.

He said ecumenism must go beyond theological dialogue and probe the historical motives for the divisions among Christians.

“What is most needed is that ‘purification of memory’ so often mentioned by John Paul II, which is the only thing that can lead souls to welcome the full truth of Christ,” he said.

Acknowledging his predecessor’s special relationship with young people, the new pope pledged that the church would continue to dialogue with them. He said he intended to travel in August to Cologne, Germany, for World Youth Day celebrations — a tradition begun by Pope John Paul.

Pope Benedict underlined the importance of the current eucharistic year, also an initiative of the late pope, saying the Eucharist would be at the center of the Cologne festivities and of the Synod of Bishops in October.

He asked all the faithful to reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist. Many other things — including church unity, evangelization and charity toward all, especially the

poor — depend on it, he said.

In his promise to keep dialogue open, the new pope mentioned the followers of other religions and people who are “simply searching for an answer to the fundamental questions of existence and have not found it yet.”

The pope spoke fleetingly about the church’s continued commitment to peace and justice issues. He said he would continue the dialogue of his predecessors with “the various civilizations,” convinced that the conditions for a better future in the world depend on mutual understanding.

Pope Benedict told the cardinals he felt an “enormous weight of responsibility” as the new pontiff, but was certain of divine assistance.

“By choosing me as the bishop of Rome, the Lord wanted me as his vicar, he wanted me to be the rock on which everyone can lean with assurance,” he said.

“I ask him to supplement my scarce resources, so that I may be a courageous and faithful pastor of his flock, always obedient to the inspirations of his Spirit,” he said.

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Praying for popes



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTEY

People pray during a Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville April 7. The Mass was one of three observances celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis to "pray for the repose of the soul" of Pope John Paul II in the Diocese of Charlotte. Priests from area parishes concelebrated the Mass.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Brooke Beard, a second-grader at Blessed Sacrament Academy in Matthews, prays during Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 18. Bishop Peter J. Jugis was scheduled to celebrate Mass daily for the election of a pope until the College of Cardinals elected a successor to Pope John Paul II. When Pope Benedict XVI was elected April 19, that day's Mass became one of thanksgiving.

Diocese reacts to new pope's election



COURTESY PHOTO

Fifth-grader Kelly Poehailos at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem answers questions from a local news station about the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI April 19.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Eric Houseknecht, pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby and Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain, stands before St. Mary Church, which was decorated within hours of the announcement of St. Benedict XVI as the new pope.

Bishop Jugis to celebrate Masses of thanksgiving for new pope

CHARLOTTE — With the election of Pope Benedict XVI April 19, Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces three Masses of Thanksgiving and Prayer for the New Holy Father will be celebrated in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Masses will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 22; at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 25; and at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

"I sincerely hope all the people of the diocese will join me at one of these Masses," said Bishop Jugis. "The election of our new Holy Father provides us another opportunity to come together in worship and thanksgiving for His blessings."

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Pope Benedict XVI one of the most respected, controversial theologians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the guiding light on doctrinal issues during Pope John Paul II's pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI is considered one of the most respected, influential and controversial members of the College of Cardinals.

The 78-year-old Pope Benedict — regarded as one of the church's sharpest theologians — has headed since 1981 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican department charged with defending orthodoxy in virtually every area of church life.

Over the years, Pope Benedict met quietly once a week with Pope John Paul to discuss doctrinal and other major issues facing the church. Insiders said his influence was second to none when it came to setting church priorities and directions and responding to moral and doctrinal challenges.

From November 2002 until his election, he was dean of the College of Cardinals, a key position in the time between popes. Pope Benedict presided over the preconclave meetings of cardinals in Rome, set agendas for discussion and action, and was responsible for a number of procedural decisions during the conclave.

White-haired and soft-spoken, Pope Benedict comes across in person as a thoughtful and precise intellectual with a dry sense of humor. A frequent participant at Vatican press conferences, he is a familiar figure to the international group of reporters who cover the church.

He is also well-known by the church hierarchy around the world, and his speeches at various assemblies often have the weight of a keynote address. When Pope Benedict spoke as a cardinal, people listened.

Tackling tough issues

Sometimes his remarks were bluntly critical on such diverse topics as dissident theologians, liberation theology, "abuses"

in lay ministry, homosexuality, women as priests, feminism among nuns, premarital sex, abortion, liturgical reform and rock music.

As Pope John Paul's pontificate developed, some Vatican observers said Pope Benedict's influence grew.

"He's become the last check on everything, the final word on orthodoxy. Everything is passed through his congregation," one Vatican official said in 1998.

But to the outside world, he has been known as the Vatican's enforcer.

He made the biggest headlines when his congregation silenced or excommunicated theologians, withdrew church approval of certain books, helped rewrite liturgical translations, set boundaries on ecumenical dialogues, took over the handling of cases of clergy sex abuse against minors, curbed the role of bishops' conferences and pressured religious orders to suspend wayward members.

In 2003, the doctrinal congregation issued a document that said Catholic politicians must not ignore essential church teachings, particularly on human life.

Pope Benedict's congregation also published a document asking Catholic lawmakers to fight legalizing same-sex marriage.

Righting relativism

In his first decade at the helm of the doctrinal congregation, Pope Benedict zeroed in on liberation theology as the most urgent challenge to the faith. He silenced Latin American theologians like Franciscan Father Leonardo Boff and guided the preparation of two Vatican documents that condemned the use of Marxist political concepts in Catholic theology.

But after the collapse of Marxism as a global ideology, Pope Benedict identified a new, central threat to the faith: relativism. He said relativism is an especially difficult problem for the church because its main ideas — compromise and a rejection of absolute positions — are so deeply imbedded in democratic society.

More and more, he has warned, anything religious is considered "subjective." As a result, he said, in places like his native Germany the issue of abortion is being confronted with "political correctness" instead of moral judgment.

He said modern theologians are among those who have mistakenly applied relativistic concepts to religion and ethics. He said Jesus is widely seen today as "one



CNS PHOTO FROM KNA

Pope John Paul II greets then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger at a Munich airport in November 1980 at the end of a papal visit to Germany. After he was elected pope April 19, the cardinal chose the name Pope Benedict XVI.

religious leader among others," concepts like dogma are viewed as too inflexible and the church is accused of intransigence.

Strict interpretations

Pope Benedict has been particularly sensitive to wayward trends in Asian theology, especially as they find popular expression.

He banned the best-selling books of a late Jesuit theologian from India and declared a Sri Lankan theologian excommunicated for his writings on Mary and the faith. The Sri Lankan theologian later reconciled with the church.

After review by Pope Benedict's congregation, U.S. Father Charles Curran, who questioned church teaching against artificial birth control, was removed from his teaching position at The Catholic University of America in Washington in 1987. Earlier this year, Pope Benedict made a similar judgment about Jesuit Father Roger Haight, who was banned from teaching Catholic theology over his book touching on the divinity and salvific mediation of Jesus.

The pope also has focused on ordinary Catholics, saying there can be no compromise on dissent by the lay faithful. He helped prepare a papal instruction on the subject in 1998 and accompanied it with his own commentary warning Catholics they would put themselves outside the communion of the church if they reject its teachings on eight specific issues.

The same year, he issued a document on papal primacy — a topic of intense ecumenical discussion — saying that, as a matter of faith, only the pope has the authority to make changes

in his universal ministry.

From the beginning

Pope Benedict's theological ideas are based on years of study, pastoral ministry and Vatican experience.

Born in Marktl am Inn April 16, 1927, the son of a rural policeman, the pope moved with his family several times during his younger years. His priestly studies began early but were interrupted by World War II.

In a book of memoirs, Pope Benedict recalled that while a seminarian he was enrolled by school officials in the Hitler Youth program; he soon stopped going to meetings. Drafted in 1943, he served for a year on an anti-aircraft unit that tracked Allied bombardments.

At the end of the war he spent time in a U.S. prisoner-of-war camp before being released.

Ordained in 1951, he received a doctorate and a licentiate in theology from the University of Munich, where he studied until 1957. He taught dogma and fundamental theology at the University of Freising in 1958-59, then lectured at the University of Bonn, 1959-1969, at Munster, 1963-66, and at Tübingen from 1966 to 1969.

In 1969 he was appointed professor of dogma and of the history of dogmas at the University of Regensburg, where he also served as vice president until 1977.

He came to the Second Vatican Council as an expert or "peritus." At the council, he was said to have played an influential role in discussions among the German-speaking participants and gained a reputation as a progressive theologian.

After the council, he published several major books, including "Introduction to Christianity," "Dogma and Revelation" and "Eschatology." He was named a member of the International Theological Commission in 1969.

Pope Paul VI appointed him archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977 and named him a cardinal later that year.

Before his election, Pope Benedict lived in an apartment just outside the Vatican's St. Anne's Gate. He walked to work daily across St. Peter's Square, rarely attracting people's notice.

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Sales of papal memorial cards top half-million

Pope's death brings spike in his books, says USCCB publishing office

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Sales of two papal memorial cards topped half a million within 10 days of Pope John Paul II's death, said Patrick Markey, associate marketing director of the publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

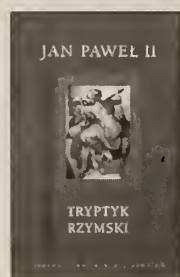
When the pope died April 2, the USCCB publishing office posted information about purchasing the cards on its Web site. The office printed 200,000 copies of the cards initially and began shipping them out April 4.

Markey told Catholic News Service April 12 that the third printing run of 200,000 was nearly gone. Sales had reached 562,000 that day and "I expect it to be 600,000 by tomorrow," he said.

One of the cards features a photo of the pope praying during his 1995 visit to Baltimore and the papal quote, "And yet I do not altogether die/what is indestructible in me remains! .../What is imperishable in me/now stands face to face before him who is."

The other card features the newly elected pope giving a blessing in St. Peter's Square in 1978 and a prayer used in the liturgy to pray for a deceased pope. Markey said sales of that card were just slightly ahead of the first card.

He said the publishing office had also sold about 40,000 copies of a two-color, two-sided bulletin insert on how a new pope is elected. The inserts can be purchased, but parishes and schools also have permission to



download an electronic copy of the insert from the USCCB Web site and reproduce it without charge.

Pope John Paul's death has also brought a spike in sales of books by or about him. Markey said the publishing office sold 10,000 copies of "The Poetry of Pope John Paul II: Roman Triptych" in a five-day period after the pope died, and at one point it hit No. 15 on Amazon.com's top-seller list.

The book contains poetry the pope wrote in 2002 when "he was already ill and knew his death was approaching," Markey said.

He added that in one of the poems the pope writes about his own death and the conclave that would follow to elect his successor.

Several books on or about the pope were among top sellers April 12 in the online listings of Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 1, 2005

May 1, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
- 2) 1 Peter 3:15-18
- 3) Gospel: John 14:15-21

God's love eases life's difficulties

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Maureen was a young mother of three preschoolers when her husband's alcoholism got the better of him and he walked out on the family. She lived on welfare supplemented by meager wages from the part-time, temporary odd jobs she could pick up when her own mother was able to baby-sit.

Emotionally, she was sustained by continuing to meet with a support group run by a social-service agency. Hard times continued into her children's teen-age years when it became clear that her son had a mental illness.

Some 30 years later, Maureen is at peace with her life even though she continues to experience many trials involving her son's illness and not a single day without worrying about his well-being.

A committed advocate for the mentally ill, she is an administrator and counse-

lor for the agency of which she once was a client. She has a close relationship with her daughters, who provide loving moral support for both their mother and brother.

Recently when I asked her how she managed to survive such constant hardship with seeming equanimity, she said, "Well, you know what they say: God won't give you more than you can handle."

Yes, I did know what "they" say. I'd heard that unattributed adage before. But it's wrong, and I believe Maureen would agree if she thought the statement through.

Actually, it's backward. God doesn't give us tribulation. Rather, the human condition creates the tribulations. But God gives us the strength, knowledge and understanding we need to withstand them — and, in fact, to plow through them to redemption.

Maureen is a perfect example of how the Lord does this, and it is explained in today's Gospel. She committed herself to love for God through loving her family, herself and other suffering people.

"If you love me," Jesus tells his disciples, "you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth."

That truth is redemption. Note its tie to love. Love leads to following God's way, which is hard. But in following, Jesus' spirit is with us, redeeming — in love — hardship and pain for joy and happiness.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24-30

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; **Monday (St. Mark)**, 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Tuesday**, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday**, Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort)**, Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (St. Catherine of Siena)**, Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday (St. Pius V)**, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1-7

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; **Monday (St. Athanasius)**, Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26—16:4; **Tuesday (Sts. Philip and James)**, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Wednesday**, Acts 17:15, 22—18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (Ascension of the Lord)**, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; **Friday**, Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday**, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28.

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WHEN GOD SPEAKS ...



CNS PHOTO FROM CBS

Joan (Amber Tamblyn) and “Little Girl God” (Juliette Goglia), right, are pictured in a scene from the CBS show “Joan of Arcadia.”

Crime sped up ‘Joan of Arcadia’ creator’s move to join church

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Most people who consider joining the Catholic Church move at the pace that best suits them. For Barbara Hall, creator and executive producer of “Joan of Arcadia,” however, it was crime that helped speed up the process.

“I had this life-threatening experience. I was a victim of a violent crime,” Hall said during an interview from Los Angeles, where she was wrapping up the last episode of the second season of “Joan of Arcadia.”

Raised a Methodist, “I was ‘nothing’ for a long time. I was an intellectual in college,” Hall recalled, “And then when I came to California, I started researching all kinds of metaphysical stuff, and all the world religions.”

Before the crime incident, which she did not elaborate on, Hall said she was already considering Catholicism, but the crime “accelerated my search. I found a church nearby and I went to a Mass, and that did it for me.”

Hall has been a Catholic for about four years. She told CNS she had been developing the idea for “Joan of Arcadia” even before she joined the church. She said she “actually got started about three years before.”

While many would be surprised to hear that it was crime that spurred Hall’s decision to join the Catholic Church, “I think people would be aghast if they found out that ‘Joan’ might not be back next season,” she noted.

The series, which deals with Joan of Arc-like visions of God — but with a present-day teen-age girl — is completing its second season, but it may not return for a third.

“People who see it love it and think it’s doing well, but they don’t know the whole story,” Hall said.

“Joan of Arcadia,” which airs 8-9 p.m. Fridays on CBS, ranks 71st of 180 series that have been placed in more or less permanent time slots this season on the six commercial broadcast networks, with 8.11 million on average tuning in each week.

“Networks tend to think in terms of nights, and not in terms of (individual) shows,” Hall told CNS, adding that CBS has eight to 10 new dramas in development for the 2005-06 season.

There is no guarantee that one of them — or all of them — would make the fall schedule, but if CBS believes it has developed a strong string of new dramas, a series like “Joan of Arcadia” could find itself on the outs after only two seasons, Hall said.

Still, “I don’t fidget. If I had any fidgeting, it would have been in the middle of the season when I tried to get the (ratings) numbers up,” she added.

“I have a Catholic attitude about it. I’ve done my job,” she said. “There’s nothing I can do anymore. I’ve done my best.”

Last year when she was honored by Catholics in Media Associates for the show, Hall said she felt compelled to create it to “initiate a conversation with the rest of the country or the world to begin a dialogue about the possibility of God. This is a show also for the alienated, the disenfranchised, the hopeful but doubting public.”

When she’s not producing “Joan of Arcadia,” Hall has an alternative-country band for which she plays guitar and sings.

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FROM THE COVER

Minuteman patrol 'affront' to nation's hospitality

MINUTEMAN, from page 1

patrol the border for one month, starting April 4, because of participants' dissatisfaction with ongoing illegal crossings into the United States by Mexican and Central American immigrants.

About 635 people — not all from Arizona — have volunteered to take part in the patrols. Some, but not all, are armed.

"We understand that many of those participating in this project are heavily armed," the religious groups' statement said.

Organizers of the Minuteman Project said its "call for volunteers is not a call to arms, but a call to voices seeking a peaceful and respectable (resolution) to the chaotic neglect by members of our local, state and federal governments charged with applying U.S. immigration law."

The Minuteman group claimed that its

volunteers' observations of border activity and their calls to authorities had resulted in 268 apprehensions by the U.S. Border Patrol through April 12. Volunteers were instructed to leave all physical contact with immigrants to Border Patrol agents.

About 400 volunteers were patrolling 23 miles of the border in the San Pedro Valley of eastern Arizona.

"Their intent to corral and harass the migrants they encounter is an affront to internationally protected rights and to our nation's history of hospitality," said the religious groups' statement. "Law enforcement officials have been properly charged with the role of monitoring immigration along our Southern border. Any attempt to usurp these duties is inappropriate."

The statement said it supported ongoing "unity events" in U.S.-Mexican border communities "to remedy xenophobia, fear and division perpetuated by the actions of the Minutemen."

"Beyond what was said, I believe it to be very important to try and understand the rea-

son why people are being forced to try and cross the border illegally," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The 46-county diocese has seen a large increase in its Hispanic population in recent years.

"We would find that the economic situations in the home countries are depressed and result in families not being able to support their families," she said. "To stem the flow of immigrants seeking better work opportunities, our government official need to look into the 'whys.'"

Catholic groups signing the statement were the Oblate Justice and Peace Office, the Religious Task Force on Central America and Mexico, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the Medical Mission Sisters Alliance for Justice, the Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office, and the Network Catholic social justice lobby.

Other signers were the American Friends Service Committee, the Washington office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries.

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Iowan auctions host on eBay site

EBAY, from page 1

unidentified person from Iowa sold what was described as a host consecrated by Pope John Paul II during a Mass in Rome in 1998.

"The holy Eucharist is central to our faith," Msgr. Roger Augustine, diocesan administrator of Sioux City, said April 12.

"Our Catholic doctrine teaches us that the Eucharist is the true presence of Jesus Christ and is to be consumed and not put on display as you would a souvenir," he said. "The public

auction of such a strong symbol of our faith is highly offensive and disrespectful."

Diocesan officials learned about the eBay posting April 11. The same day the host was sold for a reported \$2,000.

Jim Wharton, communications director for the diocese, said a Catholic from Santa Clara, Calif., purchased the Eucharist so that it would not get into the wrong hands.

Wharton said he received responses from Catholics around the country who expressed concern that a Communion host that was apparently consecrated had been put on a public Internet auction.

When they learned of the auction, diocesan officials attempted to contact the seller via e-mail to explain the inappropriateness of the sale and ask that the Eucharist be taken off the auction site, but they did not receive an immediate reply.

On April 12, the diocese planned to contact both the seller and eBay to seek termination of the auction.

"Before we could do that, we learned that the Eucharist and other items had been sold," said Msgr. Augustine.

However, the diocese then reported the sale was not finalized and seller had withdrawn it and given it to church officials. Msgr. Augustine met April 15 with the seller and said the seller deeply regretted the effort to sell the Eucharist and extended a personal apology to him, the diocese and any others who were offended by the eBay listing.

The host was given to Msgr. Augustine to be properly disposed of according to the dictates of church law.

In his eBay listing, the seller described the host as having been consecrated by Pope John Paul II during a Mass he celebrated in Rome in 1998 to mark his 20th anniversary as pope. The seller claimed to have received the host when Communion was distributed, even though the seller said, "I'm not Catholic but I found it all so interesting."

"I am most grateful that the seller agreed that it was in everyone's best interest to bring this issue to a positive conclusion," said Msgr. Augustine.

Diocesan officials said they still have differences with eBay and its policy governing the listing of items that could be offensive to people of faith.

eBay said the company reviewed the listing for the host on the site but found it did not violate company policies.


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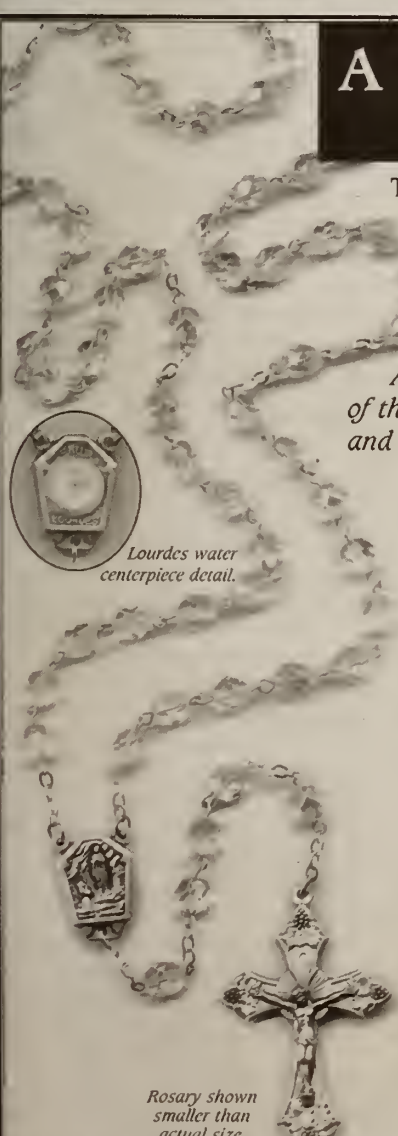
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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The new pope

Pope Benedict XVI will be blessing for truth of Catholic Church

God always blesses his Church with the type of leader it needs at each time in history.

That was true with Pope John Paul II, and it is true with Pope Benedict XVI, formerly

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. His role as the head of the church's doctrinal office, the sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, may seem to some a far cry from what he now has to do as the universal pastor of the church. Some see enforcing doctrinal orthodoxy as perhaps in tension with reaching out, as the vicar of Christ, to unite and welcome all humanity into the arms of the loving Savior.

But the roles are closer to each other than one may think. In fact, they are aspects of one another, because compassion is not opposed to truth, nor is truth opposed to compassion.

It is only when one presents the truth, in all its fullness, vigor and clarity that one can be pastoral. To "shepherd" the flock includes shepherding them into the truth, and Cardinal Ratzinger has had a special gift for precisely that.

In particular, one of his key gifts is to articulate the fact that there is such a thing as truth. To give a modern answer to the culture's echo of Pilate's question, "What is truth?," is a key demand of the papal office in our day.

To tell the culture that there is a right and wrong, and we can know it, is a key demand of compassion, a requirement of being a good shepherd. To remind people that we are capable of discerning what is good for humanity and what is destructive, what constitutes respect for life, what the gift of marriage and family really are, and what love is, becomes a service and a blessing to our generation.

Truth and compassion are two sides of the same coin. That includes the truth about the relationship between the church and politics.

Cardinal Ratzinger wrote, "The church must make claims and demands on public law and cannot simply retreat into the private sphere." He said that the fundamental political task of the church is to make sure that the state has a conscience.

"Where the church itself becomes the state freedom becomes lost. But also when the church is done away with as a public and publicly relevant authority, then too freedom is extinguished, because there the state once again claims completely for itself the jurisdiction of morality" (Ratzinger: "Church, Ecumenism, and Politics," 1988).

At the special consistory of cardinals called together in 1991 by Pope John Paul

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



II to address the critical challenges to the sanctity of human life in the world, the future Pope Benedict XVI made a comprehensive report in which he applied this Church-State theme to the right to life:

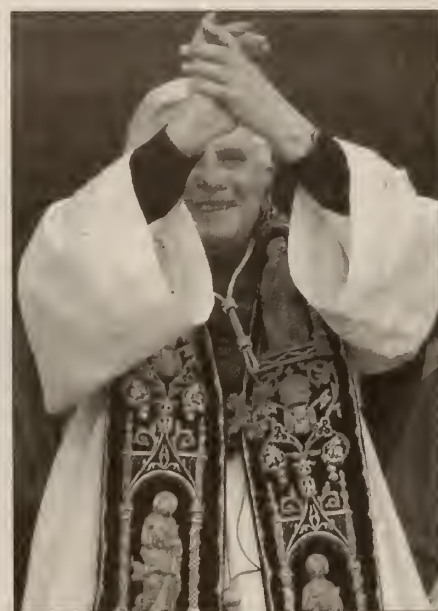
"...[A] State which arrogates to itself the prerogative of defining which human beings are or are not the subject of rights, and which consequently grants to some the power to violate others' fundamental right to life, contradicts the democratic ideal to which it continues to appeal and undermines the very foundations on which it is built.

"By allowing the rights of the weakest to be violated, the State also allows the law of force to prevail over the force of law. One sees, then, that the idea of an absolute tolerance of freedom of choice for some destroys the very foundation of a just mode of social life.

"The separation of politics from any natural content of law, which is the inalienable patrimony of everyone's moral conscience, deprives social life of its ethical substance and leaves it defenseless before the will of the strongest."

We at Priests for Life rejoice in the election of Pope Benedict XVI. He will be a blessing for the pro-life movement and for all people who find comfort that there is such a thing as truth, particularly the truth that life is sacred.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.



A time of pain, a time of hope

Evangelization is natural element of life

The Catholic Church recognizes evangelization as its mission — a mission that we, as baptized members, all share. From "Evangelii Nuntiandi" by Pope Paul VI and "Redemptoris Missio" by Pope John Paul II, to "Go and Make Disciples" by the U.S. bishops, church leaders, through their writings, challenge us to this task.

Yet, where do we begin? And how should we go about it?

At times, these questions become stumbling blocks as evangelization is seen as an intimidating task that requires knowledge, not only of the Gospel message, but also of many of the church's teachings. My first response is to simplify the process and say that if we are truly called to evangelize, it should be a natural element of daily living.

Sharing our faith, in reality, means practicing the Gospel message — and for that a theological degree is not necessary. God challenges us to evangelize with our lives.

Recently, my family confronted this reality during a tragic moment.

My uncle was killed in a car accident last week. It was an event that pained and shocked not only my family, but also many in the city of Miami.

Father Angel Villaronga, a Franciscan priest, was very popular in the Miami Hispanic community. Known for his preaching abilities, he not only preached parish missions throughout Miami and other parts of the United States, but he also had been a pioneer in bringing the Gospel message to the radio airwaves since 1964.

He even had a five-minute television program, "The Last Word," where he gave a spiritual reflection on a local station before it signed off the air each day. In addition, he led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land and served as spiritual director in the Christian Family Movement.

Flying to Miami, I did not remember the priest as much as I remembered my uncle, my "spiritual twin" who served as a role model at times. I felt empty. The suddenness of his death consumed me as well as the rest of my family.

During the viewing, my family received word that the man who ran the red light and caused the accident wanted to meet with us. His name was Guillermo. We were told that, although he was not a practicing Catholic, he had turned to a priest when he realized the extent of what had occurred.

We agreed to see him.

I did not know what to expect. On Thursday evening, we went to the small chapel in the church where my uncle's body was laid. A young man

Guest Column

FRANK VILLARONGA
GUEST COLUMNIST



in his early 30s entered, accompanied by a priest. The first thing I noticed was that there were no scratches on his face, no bandages, no limp. He appeared unhurt.

I also noticed he was crying.

A silence hung in the room for 15 seconds, broken only by the man's sobs and our own tears. Then my aunts and uncle left their seats and approached the man. One by one they hugged him. Slowly the rest of us did the same. Through his tears, Guillermo kept saying, "Forgive me."

I remembered the words of Jesus on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they do." I spoke with Guillermo and I told him that I forgave him, that I knew God had forgiven him and that I also knew that my uncle, a man of peace, had forgiven him.

I told him that, hours earlier, we had prayed for the person who had caused the accident, without knowing anything about him. I told him that I wanted him to be at peace. Through my tears I hugged him.

Our family then prayed with him — simple prayers: the Our Father and Hail Mary. I heard myself say, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Guillermo left with the priest. I spoke with the priest a few days later — they had continued to see each other. The experience of that night remains with him and I know that he has begun a healing journey towards God. I realize that this journey may be a long process and that our encounter that night was only a step along the way.

But I also recognize that it was a very important step.

Looking back, I was surprised at the strength my family had at that moment; at the same time, I also realize that we had no choice. We were sharing what we had learned, what we believed. For some reason, it was a natural response to his pain.

Evangelization, in the midst of tears and grief. And forgiveness.

Frank Villaronga is director of evangelization and ministry formation in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The fundamentals of a news story

Sometimes the press can help right a wrong

The Diocese of Charlotte and several charitable organizations operating in Charlotte recently experienced first hand the power of the news media.

Late on a recent Friday afternoon, I received a telephone call from Ken Garfield, the religion reporter for The Charlotte Observer. His voice was charged with energy that told me he was on to a hot story.

Garfield had obtained a letter written by a minister at Central Church of God, a large fundamentalist Christian church in Charlotte. It was addressed to several organizations that provide services to the poor. The church was withdrawing its support from these groups because, "We feel we should abstain from any ministry that partners with or promotes Catholicism, or for that matter, any other denomination promoting a works-based salvation."

Huh? I was under the impression that criticizing our faith for its dedication to good works was an idea that went out of style with Beate boots and beehive hairstyles.

Garfield was seeking a response from the diocese. In the Saturday edition of the Observer, the following quote from the chancery appeared:

"As Catholics, we firmly believe that salvation for the world came through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through his Passion, Jesus Christ has already completed the work of salvation. "Jesus calls us to love one another and

that love must demonstrate itself in good works. Engaging in good works is putting your faith into action.

"We earnestly hope that we can sit down with fellow Christians at Central Church of God and clarify our mutual understanding of God's word as put forth in the Scriptures. This apparent attempt to divide the faith community is most unfortunate."

I was grateful for the lengthy quote that accurately described the role of good works in our faith. But the newspaper left out the best line: "What does it mean to accept Jesus? Is it only to admire him or is it to follow him?"

As followers of Christ, we emulate his good works though the establishment of institutions such as Catholic Social Services. Individually, we do everything from visiting the sick to building houses to feeding the hungry. The list could go on and on.

Editing aside, the article apparently touched off a firestorm of criticism within Central Church of God. Even though the letter was written three weeks before the newspaper published it, one day after the article appeared, Central Church of God retreated from its statement.

The next day, Sunday, pastor Loran Livingston announced to his congregation that the church would resume support of two of the charities. But a third charity, which had accepted the help of Muslim volunteers, is still blacklisted.

The Observer reports the congregation supported the preacher's announce-

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



ment with a standing ovation. An apology to Catholics and Muslims would have been nice, but neither was part of Livingston's sermon.

In changing his mind, it is obvious that he was responding to the intense heat one feels under the magnifying glass of news media scrutiny. I understand from members of his congregation that he also received a lot of feedback from the people in his pews. Apparently our brothers and sisters at Central Church of God feel as we do — that charitable acts are part of a complete life of faith. It's likely that most were not aware that the letter had been written.

The media, in this case The Charlotte Observer, played an important role in righting a wrong that affected charitable institutions. News coverage can enlighten and transform. It can also burn as it directs the attention of thousands of readers and listeners to a situation, a cause or a problem.

Our church has plenty of experience on the hot side of a media firestorm; fortunately that was not the case with this story.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Letters to the Editor

Accessibility needed

I enjoyed reading Frank Villaronga's column, "The accessible pontiff" (April 8). I believe the main point he made is the necessity, or at least desirability, of accessibility for evangelization.

I am a convert, having felt that I should become Catholic since at least the age of 5. I don't know why (I felt this way), but I did have Catholic neighbors and my grandparents had Catholic neighbors. However, growing up in the public school system while all the Catholics in town went to parochial schools, I was "starved" to meet Catholics (my age).

Thank you again for Mr. Villaronga's column, and your whole issue on our beloved Pope John Paul II.

— Nancy Mosley
Charlotte

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Lessons in capital punishment

Killing does not bring peace; forgiveness does

"The Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty" was launched by the U.S. bishops the Monday of Holy Week.

Considering that Jesus was a victim of capital punishment, it was highly symbolic for this campaign to begin within the shadow of Good Friday.

Attending the March 21 press conference was Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, Kirk Bloodworth, a wrongly convicted death-row inmate, and Bud Welch, father of Oklahoma City bombing victim Julie Welch.

Cardinal McCarrick speaking for the U.S. hierarchy, said: "Our bishops' conference has opposed the death penalty for 25 years. But this campaign is new. It brings greater urgency and unity, increased energy and advocacy, and a renewed call to our people and to our leaders to end the use of the death penalty in our nation. ...

"We believe human life is a gift from God that is not ours to take away. Our faith commits us to the life and dignity of every human person. ... We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing. We cannot defend life by taking life."

(I hope the American bishops soon will use this same logic to launch a similar campaign denouncing war.)

Pope John Paul II, during a 1999

Mass in Mexico City, said: "The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life — who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil."

According to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, capital punishment is not a deterrent to murder. They cite a New York Times survey that demonstrated that homicide rates in states with capital punishment have been 101 percent higher than those without the death penalty.

Amnesty International says that the murder rate in Canada has dropped 40 percent since the death penalty was abolished there.

Since 1976, 117 people in 25 states have been released from death row after evidence proving their innocence was discovered. The strong possibility that state-sanctioned killing could end the lives of innocent people should in itself be enough to motivate us to end capital punishment.

Killing does not bring peace; forgiveness does. This is the lesson we can learn from Bud Welch.

Before Timothy McVeigh, who was convicted of killing Welch's daughter and

Making a Difference

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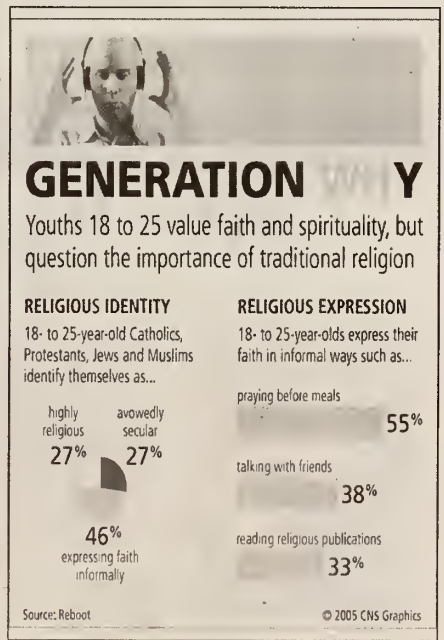
167 other people in Oklahoma City, was executed, Welch asked himself, "What does Bud Welch need to do to move on?"

Upon reflection he realized that only forgiveness leads to reconciliation and healing. He realized that executing McVeigh would be an act of vengeance and rage.

"And vengeance and rage," he concluded, "are the very reasons that Julie and the 167 others were killed."

We have a right to be protected from dangerous individuals, and sentences of "life without parole" can help provide that protection. However, the death penalty does not protect us, it hurts us. Capital punishment causes bitterness and violence to fester in our souls. It makes us less human, less God-like.

May Christ's victory over sin and death inspire us to nurture a forgiving heart and a civilized response to evil. May we live like the Master in the knowledge that violence only begets more violence and that justice at its best is tempered by mercy.



PARISH PROFILE

Our Lady of the Americas Church serves growing, diverse Catholic community

BISCOE — When Our Lady of the Americas Church was founded in 1989, a multicultural outreach to the ever-growing Hispanic community in the Diocese of Charlotte was further strengthened.

Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue, along with Oblate Father Gerard Clarke, established the first Catholic church in Montgomery County. Among the local population were thousands of Hispanics, whose rich cultural and religious heritage is reflected and lived in Our Lady of the Americas Church.

Father Clarke, who had previously served as chaplain at the Hispanic Center in Charlotte, was designated administrator.

Bishop Donoghue dedicated and blessed the church in February 1990. Two Masses in Spanish, along with one in English, were scheduled originally. Since then, growth in the parish prompted the addition of a Saturday vigil Mass as well.

In an effort to promote the Hispanic culture and religious identification, Our Lady of the Americas Church was adorned with symbols: an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a large candle with many colored bands representing the flag colors of Hispanic peoples.

For Hispanics and Anglos, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is significant in that she was specified patroness of Latin America in 1910 by St. Pius X and patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII in 1945.

The emphasis on community is strong in the parish, with ethnic lines disappearing into a cooperative effort involving Hispanic and Anglo parishioners alike. Anglo parishioners, of which there are about 100, work side by side with their Hispanics brothers and sisters to maintain the church's vitality.

Parish volunteers renovated the church building's interior in 1992, and a group of retired parishioners maintains the church grounds and assumes the responsibility of church repairs.

The educational mission within Our Lady of the Americas Church is shared by volunteers through an active faith formation program taught in English and Spanish. Hispanic parishioners learn English at the church as well.

Several thousand immigrants, mostly Hispanic, have moved to the Biscoe area in the past 15 years.

Father Clarke served as administrator until 1997. Father Mark Lawlor served as administrator from 1997 until 1999. Following Father Lawlor's administration, Father Fidel Melo served as administrator of Our Lady of the Americas Church from 1999 until 2001.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis throws the first shovel full of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Our Lady of the Americas Church April 9. Currently, the parish worships in Biscoe, but the new church will be located five miles east in Candor.

Father Ricardo Sanchez, a native of Costa Rica, has served as administrator of Our Lady of the Americas Church since 2001.

Once a sleepy little parish, Our Lady of the Americas Church is now home to approximately 1,000 Catholics. A mission of

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle, the church's growth has demanded expansion and its new location is now

OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS CHURCH

105 Hyde Street
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(910) 428-3051

Vicariate: Albemarle

Administrator: Father Ricardo Sanchez

Number of parishioners: 1,000



Father Ricardo Sanchez

one step closer to reality.

In 2005, a capital campaign was initiated to construct a permanent church building. A 15-acre plot of land was purchased in Candor, five miles east of Biscoe.

On April 9, 2005 Bishop Peter J. Jugis presided at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new church. The new wheelchair-accessible facility will include a 700-seat church, cry room, fellowship hall, offices, classrooms and columbarium.

The multicultural celebration was attended by several hundred of Montgomery County Catholics.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass,
Part 14; eucharistic
adoration list

| PAGE 7

APRIL 29, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 29

To shepherd God's church

Pope Benedict XVI formally begins ministry as head of church

Pope: election thoughts made him lightheaded, doubtful

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a liturgy rich with symbols and promises, Pope Benedict XVI formally began his ministry as head of the universal church, and Catholics from around the world pledged their love and obedience to him.

After paying homage at St. Peter's tomb the morning of April 24, Pope Benedict, with some 150 cardinals, processed into St. Peter's Square to begin the Mass and receive the main symbols of his office: the

See SHEPHERD, page 5



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A crowd waves and takes pictures of Pope Benedict XVI as he greets them after his April 24 inaugural Mass in St. Peter's Square. The Mass, attended by about 350,000 people, marked the formal start of Pope Benedict's papacy.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Moves to protect 'born-alive' infants, conscience rights praised

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — National and local pro-life Catholic officials praised the Department of Health and Human Services for its plan to "aggressively enforce federal laws that protect born-alive infants," as U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced April 22.

"Roe vs. Wade may currently leave our country helpless to defend infants moments before birth, but even now we can and must protect those struggling for their lives outside the womb," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"We applaud the Department of Health and Human

See INFANTS, page 8

GROWING IN FAITH

Hundreds join in prayer, praise at youth conference

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Catholic youths sang, rocked, prayed and learned their way through the Diocese of Charlotte's 28th annual Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) April 22-24.

See DYC, page 9



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Joe Farris tell youths how to have an "extreme Catholic makeover" during the annual Diocesan Youth Conference.

CORNERSTONE AND BUILDING BLOCKS

Conference explores small Christian communities

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Standing, singing, clapping in time to a rousing rendition of "Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ," 165 people concluded the first conference on small Christian communities (SCC) in the Diocese

of Charlotte.

"Christ is the Cornerstone, We are the Building Blocks," was held April 16 at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

Father Francis Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, spoke to Anglo attendees on "A Story Told of

See SCC, page 9

Culture Watch

Pope memorabilia near Vatican;
father-son filmmakers

| Pages 10-11

Perspectives

Purgatory; breaking the law;
abortion secrets

| Pages 14-15

Parish Profile

St. John the Baptist Church
serves Tryon Catholics

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S235 P2

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

NEW PRIEST IN TOWN



CNS PHOTO BY PHOTO BY LISA SCHULTE, CATHOLIC VOICE

Father Steven Boes, a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., has been named executive director of Girls and Boys Town, effective July 1. His appointment was announced at a press conference April 14. He is the fifth priest to hold the post since Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town in 1917.

Omaha priest named executive director of Girls and Boys Town

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — The Girls and Boys Town national board of trustees announced April 14 the selection of Father Steven Boes as the executive director of Girls and Boys Town, effective July 1.

He will be the fifth priest to hold the post since Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town in 1917.

"I am excited to have a hand in writing the next chapter in the Boys Town story, to build upon its track record in this its 88th year of changing the way America cares for its children and families," Father Boes said at a press conference on the Girls and Boys Town campus.

Father Boes, 45, will succeed Father Val Peter, who will retire as executive director June 30.

As a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha for 20 years, Father Boes is currently the director of the St. Augustine Indian Mission and senior associate pastor of several churches.

Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss said he was pleased Father Boes was selected to lead Girls and Boys Town.

"The commitment to youth he demonstrated during his years as director of the mission school, his considerable pastoral experience, as well as his

administrative talents, makes him an excellent choice for executive director," he said. "I have every confidence that Father Boes will provide quality leadership for Girls and Boys Town and will successfully carry forward the work of Father Flanagan."

The national search began in June 2004, with more than 150 candidates — men and women from both lay and religious backgrounds — considered from across the United States.

Girls and Boys Town, the original Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, is a leader in the treatment and care of abused, abandoned and neglected girls and boys. For more than 87 years, the nonprofit, nonsectarian organization has provided these children with a safe, caring environment where they gain confidence to get better and learn skills to become productive citizens.

In 2004, a record number of children — 43,654 — received help from Girls and Boys Town's direct care programs at 19 sites in 15 states and in the District of Columbia. More than 500,000 children and families were helped through the Girls and Boys Town national hot line and nearly 1 million more were served through outreach and professional programs last year.

Ex-Illinois police officer named head of child protection office

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops have hired the second female law enforcement officer to head their office that is responsible for helping them apply their child sex abuse prevention policies.

She is Teresa Kettelkamp, who helped conduct the annual audits in 2003 and 2004 of U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies to monitor compliance with the bishops' abuse policies.

The announcement of her appointment as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection was made April 15.

Kettelkamp retired in 2003 as deputy director of the Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services after 29 years with the Illinois police force. She was the first woman to attain the rank of colonel in the Illinois State Police.

Kettelkamp began her new post at USCCB headquarters in Washington April 13. She replaced Kathleen McChesney, who

resigned in February after heading the office since its inception in December 2002.

"I'll work tirelessly to continue to give victims a voice, to encourage them to come forward for healing and to strengthen the protection mechanisms for children," which were implemented in the bishops' 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," said Kettelkamp.

After retiring from the state police, she became part of the teams organized by the Gavin Group Inc., of Boston to conduct the annual audits of dioceses and eparchies.

Her Illinois police work at one time involved supervising 28 specially trained agents in the investigation and recovery of missing children. Many of the children were victims of sexual abuse.

As head of the forensic service, she managed the second largest forensic system in the nation and the third largest in the world.

mons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will offer a one-day workshop on the spiritual practice of *Centering Prayer* May 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Centering Prayer is an ancient way of knowing God through love in silence. Instruction in the tradition and method of Centering Prayer will be offered as well as experiences of Centering Prayer. The workshop is open to all Christians. Reservations are requested. For reservations or more information, call (704) 523-4641.

CHARLOTTE — The *Franciscan House of Discernment*, 801 Bromley Rd., invites all young women to a "get-acquainted evening" April 26, 6:30-9 p.m. Share a movie and popcorn with the Sisters of St. Francis. For information, call (704) 376-2010 or (704) 607-2235.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Com-

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Anyone currently unemployed or concerned about their present employment situation is invited to attend the *Re-employment Support Group* held in the Parish Life Center, Room 8, of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will meet May 12 and 26, 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, call Colleen Assal, (336) 294-4696, ext. 226. Anyone with knowledge of job opportunities is asked to call Colleen to share them with the group.

HIGH POINT — All are invited to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's first *International Festival* on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 4-8 p.m., at the church, 4145 Johnson St. The festival will feature music, dance and exhibits from a variety of nations, as well as food from the Philippines, Mexico, Vietnam, Poland and Turkey. Admission is free, but everyone is invited to bring a dish, preferably representing a foreign country, to share. For details, contact Larry Kwan at hlkw@lexcominc.net or Rita Leonard at (336) 454-3758.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford Division, Our Lady of Knock, is planning a trip to the *Franciscan Prayer Center* in May. Those interested in attending this outing are encouraged to call Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014 for further information.

HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 328-E Woodsway Ln. NW, will host *Landings*, an outreach program for those who have left the Catholic Church and are thinking of returning. Landings will meet Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., through May 28. Anyone interested in participating should call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican sets up e-mail addresses for Pope Benedict

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican created a series of new e-mail addresses so people around the world could send a message to the new pope.

Well-wishers can send Pope Benedict XVI an e-mail using any one of the six different addresses set up by language.

English (benedictxvi@vatican.va), Spanish (benedictoxvi@vatican.va), German (benediktvi@vatican.va), as well as Italian, French, and Portuguese e-mail addresses were activated and made public the morning of April 20, just 16 hours after the new pope was elected.

"In just two days after the accounts were set up, we received over 56,000 e-mails," said Legionaries of Christ Father Fernando Vergez, an official in the Vatican's Internet office.

"We didn't publicize anything," he

said. "People just know that when there is a special event we usually highlight it on our Web site."

The majority of people chose the English e-mail address, which received more than 30,000 e-mails in 48 hours.

The Vatican Web site, www.vatican.va, featured a brand new home page design with the words "Habemus papam" (We have a pope) and "Benedictum XVI" emblazoned under the new pope's chosen coat of arms. Internet users can click on one of six languages listed on the home page to get to the page featuring the pope.

From there, by clicking on the "Focus" sidebar featuring a photo of Pope Benedict on the day of his election, users are sent to a new section that provides the links to send the pope greetings and to watch events broadcast live by Vatican television.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., will offer *40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration* May 11-13. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed continually, and prayers and supplications will be offered throughout the observance. The observance will begin with Mass May 11 at 7 p.m. There will be a prayer service May 12 at 7 p.m. and closing Mass May 13 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 872-2579.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — *Court St. Mary, Mother of God of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas* will hold an open meeting May 14, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall of St. Mary Church, 28 Bartlett St. Any woman interested in knowing what the organization is all about is cordially invited to attend. For further information, call Sandy Beauchemin at (828) 586-1136 or Gwen Parris at (828) 631-4127.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., invites all Catholics who have been inactive, feel alienated or want to take another look at the Catholic Church to attend a series of sessions designed to address issue that have perhaps cause a feeling of estrangement. *Re-Membering Church* will meet Wednesdays through May 25, at following the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Governor says Catholic politicians can balance church, secular laws

ROME (CNS) — Catholic politicians can balance guidance from the Vatican with a commitment to following secular laws, said the head of the U.S. delegation to Pope Benedict XVI's April 24 inauguration Mass.

"I take advice from the leader of my church very seriously," Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida said at a press conference the afternoon before the Mass.

"I also have a duty to uphold the laws of the state. I don't believe this necessarily has to be in conflict," he said, adding that religious leaders have a right to take a stand on political issues.

"This helps not just Catholic governors, but others as well," said Bush, who in 1996 became a Catholic, which is the faith of his wife, Columba.

Other members of the delegation included Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele; Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus; Helen Alvare, associate professor of law at The Catholic University of America, Washington; and Frank Hanley, presi-

dent emeritus of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Bush said he was sure Pope Benedict would continue Pope John Paul II's emphasis on human dignity.

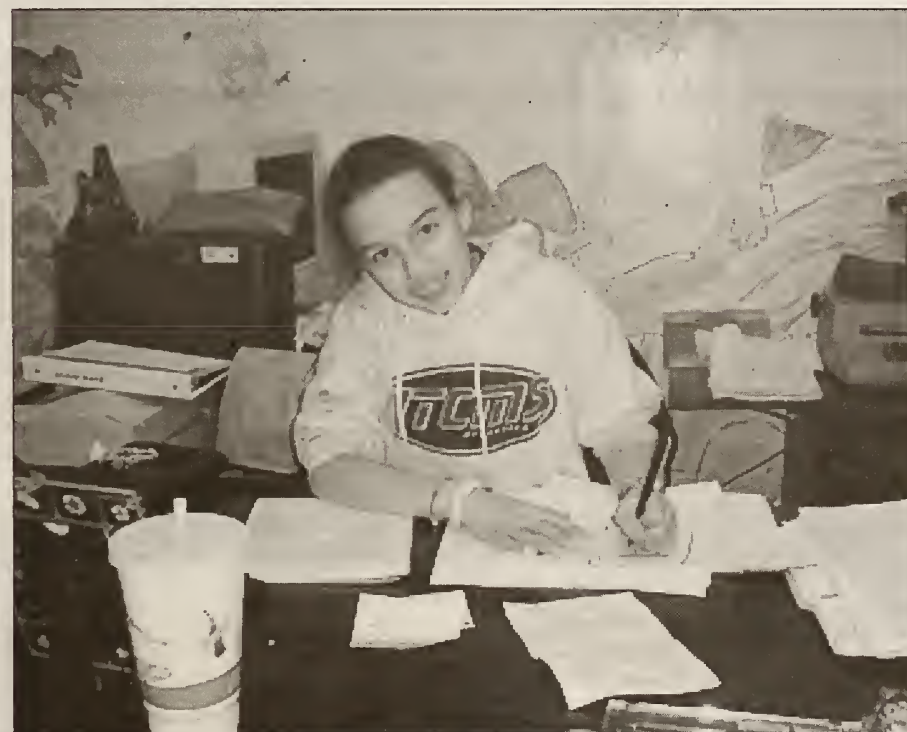
"The dialogue about creating a culture of life is one that needs to be ongoing," he said. "And religious leaders, particularly the pope, can play an important role for us to realize the value of life."

"It's not just related to abortion," he said. "It relates to end-of-life issues as well. It's wonderful to have moral leaders that are not ambiguous about what's right and what's wrong."

Asked how he reacts when his views might go against those of church leadership, as in the Iraq War or on capital punishment, the governor admitted the divergence caused him concern.

"I get uneasy when the Vatican writes me letters when a death penalty case is about ready to take place in Florida. That gives me pause. It makes me pray harder," he said.

Helping hands



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANNIE KANE

Charlotte Dunderdale, a sixth-grader at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte, returned to her former elementary school, St. Ann School in Charlotte, to help her former teachers with various tasks around the school during a day off from middle school Feb. 18. Not asked to give up her free time and not receiving service credit, Charlotte voluntarily offered to help any teacher who needed an extra pair of hands. Charlotte spent her day off grading papers, helping explain math to students, counting pennies for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, walking students to classes and helping with recess duty.

U.S. BISHOPS' CONFERENCE ISSUES PRAYER CARDS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The day Pope Benedict XVI was elected, April 19, the publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a prayer card of the new pope.

The card has an image of the pope standing on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican when he was first introduced to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square and to the world as the 265th pope.

The cards contain the prayer for a new pope from the Sacramentary and biographical information about Pope Benedict. They are available by clicking on the "Bookstore" link at www.usccb.org.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 2 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

May 5 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon

May 4 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

May 7 — 11 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the Model U.N. team from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, who participated in the 6th annual Model U.N. competition held at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Feb. 13.

High school Model UN club sweeps competition

KERNERSVILLE — The Model U.N. team at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has returned victorious.

The team participated in the 6th annual Model U.N. competition held at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Feb. 13. The Catholic University International Relations Association sponsored the competition.

"This is a team that we all can be proud of and one that will continue to meet all of the challenges placed before it," said David Seidel, a history teacher at Bishop McGuinness and the team's advisor.

After four days of competition with schools from all over the country, the Bishop McGuinness team was rewarded with Outstanding Delegation, won by students P.J. Dascoli and Mike O'Shea.

Additionally, the entire team won the Best High School award, sweeping the competition.

The team consisted of students P.J. Dascoli, Mike O'Shea, Neil Goodman,

Iain Pritchard, Will Scott, Sam Wharton, Jordan Cain, Bredan Regan, P.J. Stanford, Lauren Watkins, Rachel Anemone, Robert Whelen and John Valittuto.

The Model U.N. Club is in its second year of existence at Bishop McGuinness. Last year the club won more than 20 awards at the competition at Appalachian State University. This year the team won two awards for excellence in delegation during a competition at Duke University.

The team of 12 students represents two different countries in a variety of international situations. These simulations require in-depth research and superior negotiation and speaking skills.

"The Model U.N.'s outstanding showing in Washington is a tribute to the dedication and drive of both the team and its moderator," said George Repass, principal. "To achieve this level of distinction within two years of start-up is remarkable."

Abbot Shelton honored for work in prison ministry

HAMLET — Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor of St. James Church in Hamlet and vicar forane for the Albemarle Vicariate, recently received the 2004 Volunteer of the Year award for his work at Morrison Correctional Institute in Hoffman, N.C.

As reported in the *Richmond County Daily Journal*, Abbot Shelton received the plaque during a banquet at the prison's chapel April 12.

Greg Parsons, assistant superintendent of programs, presented the award to Abbot Shelton, describing him as an "angel delivered to us."

In addition to his ministry to inmates, Abbot Shelton was praised by Parsons for his great sense of humor.

Every Monday evening for the last several years, Abbot Shelton has gone to Morrison to hear confessions, celebrate Mass and have fellowship with the inmates.

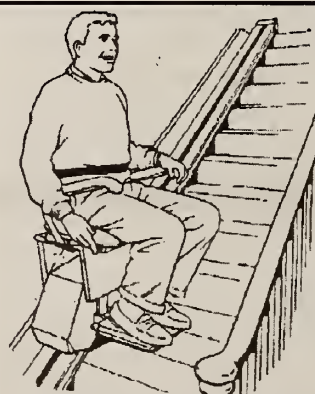
Abbot Shelton also was recognized for his initiative to study Spanish to communicate with Hispanic inmates.

"He has worked very hard at learning enough Spanish so that he could provide the prisoners with a Mass in Spanish on a weekly basis," said Father David Draim, parochial vicar. "He has had as many as 29 prisoners at Mass and has a very good reputation at the prison, where people enjoy his jokes and personality."

Abbot Shelton said he was disappointed he was not yet able to translate jokes to Spanish-speaking inmates with the same effect as in English.



Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton



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Pope begins ministry, discusses election

SHEPHERD, from page 1

fisherman's ring and the pallium.

"At this moment, weak servant of God that I am, I must assume this enormous task, which truly exceeds all human capacity," Pope Benedict said in his homily.

The 78-year-old pope said he would rely on the prayers of all Catholics and the grace of God.

"I do not have to carry alone what in truth I could never carry alone," he said.

The new pope said his inaugural Mass was not the moment to present "a program of governance," but rather a time to promise to try to be a good shepherd to Christ's flock, to rescue those who are lost, to help the poor and to build unity among all believers in Christ.

An estimated 350,000 people attended the Mass, including delegations from more than 130 countries and from dozens of Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant churches.

A loving shepherd

In his homily, Pope Benedict said, "One of the basic characteristics of a shepherd must be to love the people entrusted to him, even as he loves Christ whom he serves."

"Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God's truth, of God's word, the nourishment of his presence which he gives

us in the Blessed Sacrament," he said.

The new pope asked for the prayers of the entire church that he would grow in his love for the Lord and for the members of the church and prayers that he would be strong in the face of those who threaten the church.

"Let us pray for one another, that the Lord will carry us and that we will learn to carry one another," he said.

His homily repeatedly was interrupted by applause, and Pope Benedict received a long ovation when he finished.

After he received the symbols of his office, Pope Benedict received the act of obedience of his new flock, symbolized by 12 people from eight countries.

During the offertory procession and the act of obedience, Pope Benedict smiled broadly, listened attentively, stroked the cheeks of the young and offered his blessing.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Benedict took his first ride in the popemobile, waving to the crowd and blessing them with his right hand.

He then went into St. Peter's Basilica where he met with members of government delegations.

A new mission

The thought of being elected the leader of the universal church made him lightheaded and doubtful, said the pope.

During the "slow unfolding of the voting process" at the conclave, it eventually became evident that "the guillotine was coming closer and was meant for me," he said in an April 25 audience with



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI blesses a child as he leaves a prayer service in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome April 25. During the service, attended by several thousand people, the pope stressed that the primary task of the church is to evangelize.

pilgrims from his native Germany.

The thought of becoming the next pope "made my head spin," he said. "I had thought that up until now my life's work was done and that the years ahead of me would be more restful."

But a fellow cardinal-elect had given the future pope a letter reminding him of a phrase he had used during his homily at the funeral Mass of Pope John Paul II: "If the Lord calls you, you must obey," said Pope Benedict.

Some 3,000 German pilgrims filed into the Paul VI audience hall to meet with the newly elected German pontiff the day after he was formally installed as pope. The pope met with ecumenical and other religious leaders earlier that morning.

The pope then revealed some of the details behind his election in his message to his fellow countrymen.

He said when the voting was showing him to be the clear favorite he prayed to God "to spare me."

He said he told God, "You have candidates who are younger, better, stronger and have more elan than me."

"Evidently God did not listen to me," he said wryly.

But the pope said he gathered strength for accepting the cardinals' decision from the letter given to him

by a fellow cardinal-elect. He said the "touching" letter reminded the pope of the theme he chose for the mid-April funeral Mass homily that when one is called by God that call "cannot be rejected."

"So I had no other choice than to say 'yes,'" he said.

Pope Benedict asked his audience to continue to pray for and have trust in him.

"If I ever make an error or when the pope says something that is not easy to understand, because the pope has to say these things, I ask for your trust from now on," he said.

A young church


Pope Benedict said because Pope John Paul was seen as an open and fatherly figure, it created a church that "was not closed up inside itself," and was "open to all."

"The church is not old and immobile, but young," he said.

He also said he was looking forward to his August trip to Cologne for World Youth Day.

Contributing to this story were Carol Glatz, Cindy Wooden, Benedicta Cipolla and Eleni Dimmler.

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Rev. Edward C. Smith	1983
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Rev. James E. Noonan	1992
Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Keefe	1994
Rev. Edmund Kirsch	2001
Rev. Ramon Berg	2003

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A step toward priesthood



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHUCK MCGINNIS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with transitional deacons in study to become priests of the Diocese of Charlotte after an ordination to the diaconate at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., April 2. Deacon James Stuhrenberg (left), who attends Blessed Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass., and Deacon Alejandro Ayala (second from right), who attends St. Vincent Seminary, were ordained during the ceremony; Deacon James Elbright (right), who attends Theological College in Washington, D.C., was ordained to the transitional diaconate last year and will be ordained to the priesthood this June.

Seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte

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Latrobe, PA 15650
Deacon Alejandro Ayala

Blessed Pope John XXIII Seminary
558 South Avenue
Weston, MA 02193
Deacon James Stuhrenberg
Fred Werth

Theological College
Catholic University of America
401 Michigan Ave. NE
Washington, D.C. 2001
Richard DeClue
Deacon James Elbright
Blake Urban

Immaculate Conception Seminary
440 West Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743
Gabriel Salazar

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Rd.
Wynnewood, PA 19096
Patrick Cahill
Justin Grosnick
Patrick Hoar
Patrick Toole

Pontifical College Josephinum
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Columbus, Ohio 43235
Charles Desch
Paul McNulty
Peter Shaw
Joshua Voitov

Accepting acolytes



COURTESY PHOTO BY KEN GAVIN

Patrick Cahill, Patrick Hoare and Patrick Toole, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte, flank Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, after their institution to the ministry of acolyte at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., March 19. Pictured (from left): Father Joseph Prior, seminary rector; Cahill; Bishop Burbidge; Hoare; Toole; and Msgr. Michael Fitzgerald, vice rector.

The seminarians were among 15 seminarians to be received into the ministry of acolytes, which is celebrated during the seminarians' second year of graduate theological study at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and is a required part of the formation process.

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Offertory, consecration and Communion

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 14

As we begin to examine the Liturgy of the Eucharist this week, we are reminded that the drama of our redemption is accomplished by Christ in three distinct acts: 1) the passion, death and resurrection; 2) Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday; and 3) the Last Supper, the crucifixion and death on the cross and the empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

These three acts of our redemption compose what we call the Paschal Mystery. It is the holy sacrifice of the Mass that invites us into the Paschal Mystery and unites us with the means of our salvation.

Within these three acts — the passion, death and resurrection — there are three movements in the Mass that perpetuate the effects of our redemption and apply them to our individual souls. These three movements — namely, the offertory, the consecration and the reception of Holy Communion — compose the three principal movements of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Together, these three movements unite us with the mystery of the cross, continue to bring about our salvation by applying the fruits of our redemption today and, ultimately, express the divine love and mercy of God for his people. Let us inspect for a moment these three principal movements.

1) The offertory. In order to apply the merits of redemption to our souls, each of us must renew the death to sin that was brought about by Christ on the cross.

Christ died once and for all on the cross 2,000 years ago. In imitation of his perfect sacrifice and in union with his self-offering to the Father, we offer ourselves in union with Christ. In the early church, this was accomplished by offering the same elements that Christ himself offered at the Last Supper, namely bread and wine; some of each was used by the priest to offer the sacrifice.

Today, we substitute money for these elements. The money pays for the bread and wine sacrificed at the Mass; but the money also represents ourselves, since we receive money as payment for our labor, time and talent. The material sacrifice that we make is still a symbol of our spiritual incorporation into the death of Christ. Through the free

Guest Column

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offering of ourselves to God in union with Christ we find salvation.

2) The consecration. The offertory leads us to the consecration.

The consecration of the Mass does not mean that our Lord dies again, for he can never die again in his own individual human nature. But he prolongs his death in us. In the offertory we present ourselves for sacrifice with Christ; in the consecration we die with him. We apply his death to ourselves that we may share his resurrection and his glory.

At the consecration, the eternal breaks into time, heaven dawns upon earth, God comes again to meet man. By the words of Christ speaking through a priest, the Holy Spirit changes the substance of bread and wine into the substance of Christ's body and blood, soul and divinity. This is known as transubstantiation (from the Latin, meaning "change in substance").

This is not simply a recited prayer, but a divine act which enables us to apply the cross to ourselves; the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ is brought into the present and relived in us.

Why? In order to receive him as spiritual nourishment and as an antidote for sin and death.

3) Holy Communion. In the offertory, we are like lambs led to the slaughter. In the consecration, we are the lambs who are slaughtered in our old sinful selves. And in holy Communion, we find that we have not died, but that we have come to life.

In a certain sense, the substance of bread and wine must be sacrificed, must die, so that it may become the body and blood of Christ. In the same way, our old habits of sin must also be sacrificed so that we might have new life in Christ.

Chemicals must die so that plants might live. Plants must perish so that animals might live. Chemicals, plants and animals must die so that man might live.

And our old sinful selves must perish for God to live in us. That is why we "receive" holy Communion: we receive Christ, we receive divine life. But perhaps more importantly, it is Christ who receives us, incorporating us into his divine life.

Next week we will begin to inspect the rituals that bring us to union with Christ.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews	Holy Redeemer Church	Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
Arden	St. Barnabas Church	Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Asheboro	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m. daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Asheville	Basilica of St. Lawrence	daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
Belmont Abbey	Mary, Help of Christians Church	first Fridays 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Mass
Boone	St. Elizabeth Church	first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
Bryson City	St. Joseph Church	
Charlotte	Our Lady of the Assumption Church	first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour perpetual adoration
	St. Gabriel Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday, in chapel
	St. Matthew Church	first Fridays following the 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
	St. Peter Church	Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 8:30 p.m.
	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass
	St. Vincent de Paul Church	until 10:30 a.m.
Clemmons	Holy Family Church	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
Concord	St. James the Greater Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m.
Denver	Holy Spirit Church	first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday
Forest City	Immaculate Conception Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8-9 a.m.
Franklin	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Gastonia	St. Michael Church	eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
Greensboro	St. Benedict Church	first Fridays, 12:15-8 p.m.
	St. Paul the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Hendersonville	Immaculate Conception Church	first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
Hickory	St. Aloysius Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
High Point	Christ the King Church	first Fridays: call church for time
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Lenoir	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Saturdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m.
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Mt. Airy	Holy Angels Church	Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Newton	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
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Sylva	St. Mary Church	first Saturday following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
Thomasville	Our Lady of the Highways Church	first Fridays, 12-7 p.m.
Tryon	St. John the Baptist Church	Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Waynesville	St. John the Evangelist Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

'Born-alive' act praised

INFANTS, from page 1

Services for initiating this important and humane effort," Ruse added in an April 22 statement.

The department's action followed the passage in August 2002 of the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, which says that any infant who is fully born and shows signs of life is considered a human person entitled to the full protection of the law — even if the baby is born during a failed abortion.

"Any step taken to promote the protection of human life has to be considered positive," said Maggi Nadol, coordinator of Respect Life Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, in an April 26 statement.

"But, how frightening that we, as a society so richly blessed, must pass a law to protect its most precious natural resource — the next generation," she added.

Leavitt noted that "Congress had received testimony that some infants who had been born alive after unsuccessful abortions were left to die."

He said his department would "investigate all circumstances where individuals and entities are reported to be withholding medical care from an infant born alive in potential violation of federal statutes" and "take proactive steps to educate state officials, health care providers, hospitals and child protection agencies about their obligations to born-alive infants under federal law."

In the "first of these educational

steps," Leavitt said, the department has issued guidelines about how the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act intersects with other federal laws and regulations — the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, the Medicare Conditions of Participation and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

"Ours is a society that values and defends life," Leavitt said, pledging that his department would "continue to seek ways to revere and protect the dignity of life."

In a separate statement April 22, Ruse also expressed gratitude that a Senate vote to rescind the Hyde-Weldon Conscience Protection Amendment had been canceled, reportedly because Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., realized she did not have the votes necessary to overturn the provision.

The amendment — named for Reps. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Dave Weldon, R-Fla. — prohibits governmental discrimination against health care providers who choose not to provide or participate in abortions. It became law last December.

"The vote to kill conscience protection for pro-life health care providers made no sense," Ruse said. "How can you claim to be 'pro-choice' and say that Catholic and other health care providers have no right to choose not to participate in abortions?"

Even if senators disagree about abortion itself, she added, "conscience rights should be an area of common ground."

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

Colorado church officials hail veto on emergency contraception bill

Decision called 'victory for religious freedom' by archdiocese official

DENVER (CNS) — Catholic officials in Colorado praised Gov. Bill Owens' veto of a bill that would have required all Colorado hospitals, including Catholic facilities, to notify rape victims of the availability of an emergency contraception pill to prevent pregnancy.

Sergio Gutierrez, spokesman for the Denver Archdiocese, called the governor's April 5 decision "a victory for religious freedom."

In his veto letter, Owens, a Catholic, said: "This bill does not give patients all the information that they deserve, nor does it safeguard basic freedom of conscience."

In a speech in March, Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput told an audience at the City Club of Denver the problem with the bill was that it mandated "a form of so-called 'emergency contraception' that could amount to early-term abortion and that is always very gravely wrong."

The measure would have forced Catholic hospitals to violate Catholic teaching against abortion, he said.

In his remarks, the archbishop also expressed dismay that the separation of church and state is frequently cited as a reason why religious leaders should stay

out of politics, but said the same standard does not apply when the state wants to impose its view on Catholic hospitals.

Supporters of the measure said it was about providing information to women. Sponsors of the bill said they did not have enough votes to override Owens' veto. The governor received the bill April 4 and had 10 days to decide whether he would veto it or sign it into law.

In Arizona, Gov. Janet Napolitano vetoed a bill that would have allowed health care professionals, hospitals and pharmacies to refuse on moral grounds to dispense medications related to abortion or emergency contraception.

In a joint statement, the state's Catholic bishops criticized the governor for vetoing a measure that they saw as a matter of civil rights for health care professionals and Catholic hospitals.

The right to follow one's conscience is particularly important when the issue involves "the taking of an innocent human life," said the statement signed by Bishops Thomas J. Olmstead of Phoenix, Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson and Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., whose diocese includes north-eastern Arizona.

WRITERS SOUGHT !

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

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YOUTHS IN ACTION

Hundreds of youths gather at annual DYC

DYC, from page 1

"I really like that all the Catholic youths can get together," said Becky Dilloway, attending her third DYC from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

"I love the enthusiasm; it's not something you see every day," she said. "It gives you hope for the Catholic Church of tomorrow."

Taking its inspiration from the Year of the Eucharist, the conference theme was "The Perfect Body."

Held at Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center near Black Mountain, the DYC was sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Youth Ministry in collaboration with the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council. The council is composed of high school students from each of the 10 vicariates to serve as youth coordinators between their parishes and the diocese.

About 250 high school students and their chaperones from 33 parish youth groups attended the DYC.

"I think this conference has been an experience of the lavish generosity of our loving God and the people here in this diocese," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry.

"We've had the most priests partici-

pating of any youth conference the youth ministry office has sponsored," he said. "I think the priest participation is a hopeful sign of their devotion to the young Church and their willingness to help foster the faith. Everything has taken on a eucharistic theme."

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Sunday Mass in the auditorium. Five pastors from the Asheville, Smoky Mountain and Albemarle vicariates participated variously in offering the sacrament of reconciliation and in celebrating or concelebrating Masses in the chapel.

Workshops delved into the Eucharist, the Mass, a Christ-centered life, sexuality and abstinence, exploring God's creation and the call to holiness.

Steve Bernardi, youth ministry coordinator for Haywood Catholic Youth, was attending his sixth DYC with 12 HCY members.

"I use this conference as a springboard for my young kids who are coming in," he said. "They get to be around a lot of other Catholic youths. The workshops are always good."

The DYC is one of HCY's favorite events, Bernardi said.

"They see that it's OK to be enthusiastic about their faith," he added. "[DYC] helps to steer the kids into leadership roles, such as the youth leadership council."

Joe Farris, a teacher at St. Peter's



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Silers Bald, a Christian rock group, entertains with a concert during the annual Diocesan Youth Conference April 22-24.

School in Greenville, N.C., spoke on "Extreme Makeover, Soul Edition."

According to Farris, a Catholic makeover isn't about changing one's physical appearance.

"What God wants to do has nothing to do with what's outside. God works in here," Farris said, pointing to his own heart.

"The first step in an extreme Catholic makeover is to realize God loves you and to trust God," he said.

The second step is accepting responsibility for one's decisions, Farris said. "Decisions can drag you down but they can also lift up."

Reconciliation, the third step, "is a sacrament of healing," Farris said. "Find a priest, go to reconciliation. People say, 'I'm not perfect,' but the church, in all her glory, has given us this sacrament. Immerse yourself in the sacraments."

Farris urged the youths to take responsibility and "accept faith in God as your own." He told them to think, "It's not

about my parents dragging me to church. It's about me stepping out in faith."

Like Jesus calling Lazarus to come forth from the tomb, Farris said, "God calls us and waits for us to come to him."

The DYC "brings me closer to God and who he is," said Eugene Preston, a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. "It's better to do it in a teen atmosphere because it's more geared to teens than adults."

After a simple altar was set up on the dais, Deacon John Parrish of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte carried the Blessed Sacrament from the adoration chapel and placed it in the monstrance.

Farris, who gives talks throughout the country, was impressed with the Christ-centered youths at the DYC.

"I've seen a lot and there's an air of worship about them that's special, that's different, that's inspiring," he said. "This did more for me than I did for them. These are change-the-world kind of folks."

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

PAPAL PURCHASES

Memorabilia — tasteful to tacky — fill souvenir shops near Vatican

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Memorabilia ranging from fairly tasteful to remarkably tacky fill the dozens of souvenir shops around the Vatican, most of them still brimming with merchandise plastered with Pope John Paul II's face.

With a new pontiff in office, though, shopkeepers were gearing up for Pope Benedict XVI paraphernalia seekers.

Postcards depicting the new pope began trickling in April 22, to the relief of souvenirs hunters.

"We just bought whatever we could find to go home with for friends. We haven't seen much of the new pope in the shops," said Anne Finnigan of Coatbridge, Scotland.

Just after Pope Benedict's April 19 election, stores got their hands on photographs from the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, and two days later only a few pictures were left.

Long lines at newsstands formed the morning after the election for the paper's special "Habemus papam" (We have a pope) edition. The daily, which usually appears in the afternoon, went to press just after the announcement of Pope Benedict's election.

While sales figures were not available, the crowds buying multiple copies to save for posterity suggested *L'Osservatore Romano* had significantly expanded its normally Vatican-oriented readership, if only for one day.

More elaborate postcards and miniposters with Pope Benedict's visage alongside the dome of St. Peter's Basilica and other Rome monuments were due in time for the April 24 installation Mass.

Expected from manufacturers in the coming weeks were medals, key chains and other trinkets, including the "popener," a bottle opener graced with a bas relief or picture of the pope. Tourists snapped them up during Pope John Paul's pontificate.

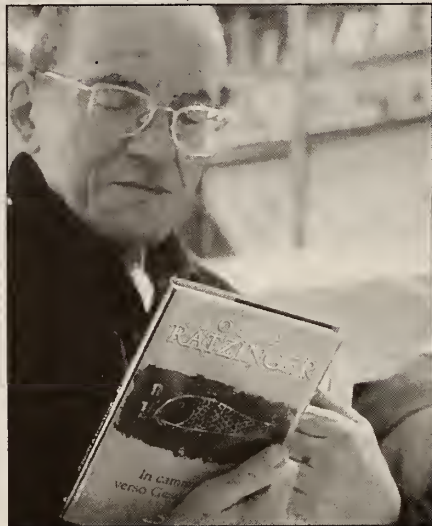
Two shops got a head start on the competition April 21 by offering rosaries nestled in plastic boxes featuring Pope Benedict; one shop sold 72 in the 30 minutes after their arrival.

At La Cupola, where the new rosaries beckoned to customers from boxes placed outside the entrance, the owner wondered whether the new pope's choice of name might spur souvenir sales.

"To tell the truth, there's a lot of junk out there," she said.

Germany outstripped Italy in the race to produce papal merchandise.

By April 21, Pope Benedict's home town, Markt am Inn, had come up with papal beer, Vatican bread, candles featuring photographs taken the night of his election and a cake called "slice of



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A man looks over a book by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, in a shop near the Vatican April 21.

Ratzinger." Bakeries offered free papal pastries shaped like miters.

The many books penned by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger sold briskly.

Based on sophisticated theology, the books the future pope wrote while head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith may not appeal to the average visitor. In one shop, the sales "boom" translated only to about 50 copies, but owners were ordering up to 3,000 more in anticipation of increased demand.

Entire tables remained dedicated to Pope John Paul and were piled high with biographies, books he wrote, DVDs and calendars. Bookstore windows still prominently featured the late pope's writings, though most made an effort to display Pope Benedict's as well.

It remained to be seen if Pope Benedict would eventually outsell his predecessor. Some stores marked down merchandise related to Pope John Paul in order to make way for the new items slated to arrive. But most thought the late pope, given his popularity among the faithful during his more than 26-year papacy, would have the souvenir market cornered for some time.

For those not in Rome, eBay offered a panoply of hastily concocted Pope Benedict goods. Among the items up for auction: "Papa Ratzi" T-shirts; cell phone attachments, little papal charms that light up when the phone receives a text message; and a string of glow-in-the-dark lantern string lights featuring photos of the pope.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 8, 2005

May 8, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 1:12-14
Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8
- 2) 1 Peter 4:13-16
- 3) Gospel: John 17:1-11a

God's compassion for all binds us, not always well received

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The woman stood close, half a step inside his comfort zone.

"Father," she said ominously, her head cocked to one side and her eyes squinted half shut, "I've got a question about your homily."

The young priest involuntarily backed up from her challenging tone and her fierce glare.

"Sure," he said, eyeing the woman and her glowering family nervously. "What did you want to ask?"

The woman paused dramatically, hand on hip. Passersby slowed down to witness the brewing confrontation,

pulled by the same morbid fascination that halts traffic at accident sites and draws crowds for a bar fight.

She leaned forward. "Are you trying to tell me we're supposed to love homosexuals? Is that what you're saying?"

It was a rhetorical question. She knew he'd said exactly that in his homily about God's call to love our sisters and brothers. Clearly, she disapproved. Contempt dripped from her words, like acid, burning all it touched.

When he tried to clarify his intent, her lips curved downward and she shook her head in disgust. As he continued to explain the all-inclusiveness of God's mercy, she turned in mid-sentence and walked away, trailing disapproval like acrid smoke.

"Rejoice," today's reading from the First Letter of Peter tells us, whenever we suffer as a result of our faith: "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you."

Christ has revealed God's love and compassion to his disciples, but the world of which we are part does not always relish that good news. When our fidelity to Christ puts us at odds with the impulse to judge and condemn others, we need to be prepared for hostility.

The good news is that the suffering such rejection brings binds us ever closer to Jesus, in whose promises we trust.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1-7

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; Monday (St. Athanasius), Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; Tuesday (Sts. Philip and James), 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; Wednesday, Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; Thursday (Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; Friday, Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-27; Saturday, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8-14

Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; Monday, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; Tuesday (Bl. Damien de Veuster), Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; Wednesday, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; Thursday (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras), Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; Friday (Our Lady of Fatima), Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; Saturday, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17.

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SAINTS ON SCREEN

Father-son filmmakers spotlight church's teachings

BY MARY WALSH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WINSTED, Conn. — Stephen Payne left Hollywood in 1991 because he was not happy with his newfound career as postproduction coordinator for the USA cable television network.

"The execs were pushing the envelope on sex and violence and I was really feeling awful that this was happening under my involvement," said Payne, 38, who is a Catholic.

"I decided my life was really consecrated to Christ, and I had to step out of that industry to try to do something in film that would make a difference," he said.

Looking back, he said he believes the events that led him to team up with his father to found Arcadia Films Ltd. in 1998 have been providential.

Today, instead of preparing racy, made-for-TV movies, Payne and his father have produced a series of films on the lives of the saints, a 90-minute documentary on the life of St. Louis de Montfort and promotional videos for the Steubenville East summer youth conferences.

Their clients include Eternal Word Television Network, known as EWTN, as well as Priests for Life and Angelicum University in Rome.

"We've always been taken care of in

God's divine providence and we've never had to do anything secular in over 10 years," Payne said.

From their studio in Litchfield County, the father-son team aims, as Payne explained, "to make Christ and Our Lady better known" through their work in the media.

Their latest project is a public service announcement for the Massachusetts Catholic Conference on embryonic stem-cell research.

The ad shows a baby being delivered into the arms of its waiting mother. A voiceover explains that every human being was once an embryo, just as butterflies were once caterpillars.

The topic of stem-cell research is one with which the Paynes are especially familiar. Stephen's mother, Patricia, suffers from Parkinson's disease and is currently undergoing treatment with adult stem cells. She recently testified against embryonic stem-cell research before the Massachusetts Legislature.

The Paynes also have produced several commercials encouraging voters to consider life issues when voting. The spots, paid for by Priests for Life, were aired in battleground states during the 2000 election year.

"The Saints Speak," a series of 40



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCADIA FILMS

Richard and Stephen Payne, founders of Arcadia Films, flank Rob Draper, director of photography, for "The Saints Speak."

spiritual minimovies, is currently airing on EWTN. In short clips, actors portray saints, offering viewers' reflections on the Eucharist in the saints' own words.

The reflections are taken from the saint's writings. Saints featured include Catherine of Genoa, Augustine and John Chrysostom, to name a few.

The Paynes, who are natives of Canada, said that they approach their work "always in an atmosphere of prayer to discern what God really wants."

Stephen Payne said, "Our interest is really to serve the church and that's primary in everything we do."

The pair also firmly believes that the media holds great possibility for furthering Catholic teaching. But the industry's creative side needs Catholics' support.

"The potential is huge for evangelization," said Stephen Payne. "Catholics have to come together to realize if (Mel Gibson's) 'The Passion' was possible, what else is possible?"

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To mothers on this day of honor, we thank you for your courageous love in giving us life... and to those birth mothers who lovingly choose adoption for their children and those who give the love of their hearts to adopted children, we say to all "Happy Mother's Day!" We love you and give you our thanks every day of our lives.



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Respect Life Office, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte: (704) 370-3229, Maggi Nadol, Director

Conference explores small Christian communities

SCC, from page 1

Roots and Wings: The Communities We Call Church."

Vincentian Father Jesus Guadarrama, who served as a Hispanic ministry coordinator in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates and is now director of the Center of Evangelization, San Vicente de Paul in Brooklyn, N.Y., spoke to Hispanic attendees on the Eucharist as the center of community and dialogued with them on how they saw their own small Christian communities.

A diocesan survey revealed that among the 43 responding parishes, SCCs formed from 1973 to 2000 include charismatic and other prayer groups, RCIA and Renew groups, Scripture study groups, a Newman Club and a Christian mothers group.

Father Cancro based his talk on Vatican II's "Lumen Gentium," Pope Paul VI's "Evangelii Nuntiandi," Pope John Paul II's "Redemptoris Missiones" and on the earliest small Christian communities, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

SCCs, he said, "don't come in a particular form but are shaped by the needs of the community. We are deeply

rooted in the essentials of the way Christ ministers in the world."

One SCC essential is engaging parish members in interpersonal relationships.

"Our tradition was going to church, was Jesus and me," Father Cancro said. "If you remember when we started singing and talking in church, you remember how uncomfortable that was for us. Communion was private."

"Now, the response after Communion is with our mouths open, singing a hymn, a response united in Christ," he said.

Other essentials involve mutual support and education in and reflection on faith — talking to people where they are on their faith journeys.

"Mutually, together," he said, "we are called to educate each other in what we have in common — our faith."

SCCs should be empowered for the mission of Christ.

"A group can become amazingly insular, very comfortable," Father Cancro said. "It's a red flag to hear things like, 'We've never done this before,' or 'We've never met on this night before.' You can never be turned inward. The mission of Christ is always to be turned away from that insular focus and out toward what might be."



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

People clap and sing during the first small-Christian-community conference in the Diocese of Charlotte held at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory April 16.

SCCs, he added, "are hotbeds of Gospel justice," in that they always have a sense of each person's "common dignity" and "equality" before God. "In our diversity, we are still one in faith, what Catholic means."

Additionally, "in a world that's good at batting down the idea of following Jesus," SCCs can be faith-filled oases.

"I think it's the job of the pastor, not to establish small Christian communities," he said, "but to establish (such as in his homilies) the notions of small Christian communities and then to step back and let the small Christian communities do their work while being patient enough for the Holy Spirit to do its work."

Father Cancro said that SCCs must maintain the church's mission, must "enter into a collaborative mode with parish life and be part of the bigger pie, not a small, separate dessert. They have to be open to the breath of the Holy Spirit and cannot become so insular — doing their own thing — that they are no longer assets to the parish."

Also, an SCC, he said, must "live, promote and practice communion — a communion of faith, purposefully intertwined with one another in their commonality, to realize that the Word we receive is never for our sole benefit but for each other as well."

"Small Christian communities help us to value who we are," said Ann Shaw of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. "We all have a story. When we share our

stories in relationship to God, it empowers us to grow in God. When we share our stories, we see the face of God."

"The story is meaningless without the face that goes with it," said her husband, Deacon Bill Shaw. "Small Christian community allows the greater community to have a face. As a deacon or a priest sitting out there, you see the faces but don't hear the stories."

Father Guadarrama based his presentation on the Eucharist on Pope John Paul II's "Mane Nobiscum Domine," published in October 2004 for the Year of the Eucharist.

"Eucharist nourishes us in our mission on earth," he said. "Our mission is to recognize God in the breaking of bread, and he leads us to go out and be the good news for others."

Father Guadarrama asked the Hispanic attendees about the strengths and weaknesses of their SCCs.

The strengths, he learned, were found in "a sense of support, a sense of family, expression of solidarity, learning Scripture, and in catechesis."

Weaknesses were that some people don't stay in the community and, in some cases, lack of access to a priest.

The Hispanics also wanted more integration with other cultures.

"They said they really liked the meeting today, because they felt welcome," Father Guadarrama said. "This is one of the dreams, the ideals, of the church, to really be one."

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Mercy Sister Mary Edward Brennan dies at 97

Sister Brennan remembered for patriotism, friendliness

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Edward Brennan, 97, died March 3 at Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1948, and was in her 57th year as a Sister of Mercy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 7 at the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel with burial following at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Brennan was born Oct. 3, 1907 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Her secular name was Patricia Anne Brennan; she took the name Sister Mary Edward upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy Feb. 3, 1948.

Sister Brennan served as a physiotherapy technician in World War II after enlisting in the Women's Air Force in November 1943 and served through October 1945. By the time of her honorable discharge, she had received both the American Theater Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

She was a graduate of McGill University in Toronto, Canada. She received certification from the state of Illinois as a registered therapist and received her certification as a registered X-ray technologist.

She ministered for two years in the X-ray department at St. Joseph's Hospi-

tal in Asheville before returning to Charlotte to begin what would be a 27-year ministry teaching in the School of Radiology at Mercy Hospital.

She was a member of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists and the North Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists, where she served a term as vice president and also as chairperson of the group's public relations committee.

"There have been so many lovely things that have happened to me during my years as a Sister of Mercy," said Sister Brennan in 1998. "I would have to say that the best thing about the last 50 years was the opportunity to become friends with those I served."

"In fact, I still keep in touch with some of the people I met while I was at Mercy Hospital," she said.

Until 1997, she ministered in support service to her religious community. Her smiling face at the reception desk and her charming Irish accent greeted anyone who called at the Motherhouse, in person or by telephone.

Although her motto, "all things to all people," referenced her Lord, it could also describe her philosophy of hospital-



Mercy Sister Mary Edward Brennan

ity. Visitors to Sacred Heart Convent were not visitors for long after they met Sister Brennan. Instead, they became fast-friends; indeed, as she would have said, "family."

Although it had been many years since Sister Brennan actively served in the Armed Forces, she remained a bastion of patriotism in Belmont. Until the Motherhouse renovation and a broken hip intervened, each morning and evening the proud veteran maintained her daily ritual of raising and lowering the American flag, accompanied by a snappy salute.

When the flag was on display in Marian Center, she returned to her "morning salute."

Sister Brennan is survived by her sisters in the Regional Community of North Carolina, her cousins and her friends.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012-4805.

Teen selected to attend N.C. Governor's School

CHARLOTTE — Jewel Sheehan, 15, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, was selected to attend the 2005 Governor's School of North Carolina, a six-week summer residential program for intellectually gifted high school students.

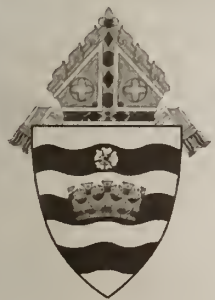
Jewel, a student at Weddington High School, was nominated in the mathematics category and will attend the program at Salem College in Winston-Salem.

Jewel is an active member of Life Teen at St. Matthew Church. She also participates in the parish's music ministry — she plays the flute, sings in the choir and serves as cantor at the Life Teen Mass.

She also is a volunteer at St. Gabriel School's developmental preschool program for children and those with disabilities.

At Weddington, Jewel is a member of the National Honor Society, student council and three-time varsity letter winner of the swim team.

The Governor's School of North Carolina's curriculum focuses on the exploration of the most recent ideas and concepts in each discipline, and does not involve credit, tests or grades. The program is entirely free of charge to all students, funded by the General Assembly of North Carolina.



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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Is purgatory still a part of Catholic faith?

Q. I am nearly 80 years old and was taught that everyone goes to purgatory after death, nobody goes to heaven immediately. But today there isn't much said about it. Is purgatory still part of our faith? Are we still to pray for the dead? (Michigan)

A. Purgatory is still very much a part of our faith. It is also true, however, that we speak more carefully about purgatory than we sometimes did in the past.

Perhaps one reason we hear less about purgatory today is that many of us have a lot of misunderstandings that could use some correcting. The hoary pictures of torture, pain and a punishing God, which used to be common and which made purgatory kind of a minihell, may scare someone to death, but most are irrelevant to authentic Catholic teaching.

Two things are clear in our tradition concerning purgatory. First, we believe there is some condition or circumstance in the process of dying or after death by which any punishment remaining for sins is satisfied. And second, Catholic teaching tells us that we can assist those who are "in purgatory" by our prayers and good works here on earth.

This is simply an aspect of our belief in the communion of saints, which unites in love all who are joined to Christ, whether still on earth or in the next world.

Equally clear is that the official teachings of the church do not intend to answer physical details about purgatory. Is it a state or condition, or a "place"? Is "time" involved or not?

Since the world after death would not appear to have hours or days or years as we know them, it seems unlikely that purgatory involves place or time as we experience them here.

A few years ago, Pope John Paul II challenged us to take a fresh look at heaven, hell and purgatory. When we hear those words we often pay more attention to popular images than to the doctrines themselves. A little reflection should warn us to be careful about the "beliefs" these familiar words and images might inspire.

In his reflections the pope made explicit what has been implicit all the time.

Does anyone really believe, for example, that heaven or hell or purgatory are "places" as we think of them in this life, somewhere out in another universe or on an unknown planet?

This tells us something about purgatory, according to the pope. Purgatory is not a place but a "condition" of purification for the saved whereby Christ "frees them from their imperfections." As the Catholic catechism says, purgatory is a process, a transition of purification and of cleansing.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Christian spiritual theology and practice in fact recognizes often that this process can occur, at least partly if not wholly, even before we die. It is not uncommon, with Christian insight, to say of people in severe physical or emotional pain that they are "having their purgatory here on earth."

None of this changes or minimizes the ancient practice of praying for people who have died. Past, present and future are all one present moment to God. Our prayers, whenever they are said before or after death, go to a God who is not limited by when they happen to be offered.

Can you imagine God saying: "It's too bad your prayers are late. If you had said them yesterday or last year, I could have done something about it." Prayers lifted to God for the living or the dead "go back" over their entire lives, their final illnesses and their entrance into eternity. They are never lost or wasted.

A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor

A thank you letter

This is a letter of thanks to the participants in the 28th annual Diocesan Youth Conference, held in Ridgcrest April 22-24.

We want to publicly thank the chaplains for the sacrifices they made to bring the youths for the weekend event. We also want to acknowledge all the teens for their exemplary behavior.

The adult team included Carl and

Shrouded in secrecy

Common surgery for women leaves many unanswered questions

Four years ago, the *Washington Post* published a report on the highly secretive system of capital punishment in Japan. By some unknown process, prisoners are randomly selected for execution, including some whose appeals are still pending.

The day of execution remains a mystery to both the inmate and his family. The prisoner learns of the execution only once it is imminent: the guards come to his cell to escort him to the execution room. Blindfolded, a noose is placed around his neck. In another room, about five guards whose identities too are secret (perhaps even to their own families) are each poised to press a button.

One button operates a trap door through which the prisoner falls to his death. Not even the guards know who among them pressed the button that actually commenced the hanging.

After the execution, the inmate's family is notified, "We parted with the inmate today."

Each day in the United States, 3,500 women hold in their hearts a very secret pain, "We parted with our unborn children today."

After healing and reconciliation through programs such as Project Rachel, and Rachel's Vineyard some do speak out about their personal tragic stories. But most walk alone with this pain. They might be among our family members, colleagues, friends and casual acquaintances.

It is now 32 years after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*, mandating that abortion be legal throughout the nine months of pregnancy nationwide. But we know little about the children who are killed, when and why their short lives were ended or about the circumstances of the women who are harmed by the practice.

As a society, we spend little time reflecting on what this vast social experiment has done. Has it coarsened us? Has

Life Issues Forum

MAUREEN BAILEY
GUEST COLUMNIST



it actually worsened the social standing of women? Why has the "freedom to choose abortion" so often become the expectation to choose abortion? Is it a boyfriend's wish or economics or school and career advancement?

Physically, do women suffer from their abortions? The Centers for Disease Control reports that hundreds of women have died from legal abortion but no one knows the true number. How many more experience complications, such as uterine perforations or incomplete abortions?

And what of the psychological impact? Some women have offered their personal stories but no large scientific study has been undertaken.

Their unborn children remain a mystery to us. Each year, 1.3 million children are aborted; 19,500 abortions occur after the 20th week, the second half of pregnancy. At least 2,000 are killed by the partial-birth abortion method. Why were they selected for such a grisly procedure and so late in pregnancy?

Some children are targeted because they are disabled, but what are their disabilities? A cleft palate? Down syndrome?

Why do we keep abortion — perhaps the most common surgery performed on women today — shrouded in secrecy? Is it because we can't handle the truth?

Maureen Bailey is a public policy analyst with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Leslie Brown, Erin Leonard, Beth Langsdorf, Patrick Holyfield and Kelly and Koli Fisher who served as the mentors throughout the year to our amazing Diocesan Youth Advisory Board.

There were many who made this year's conference a success, including the staff of Ridgcrest.

A special thanks to all our workshop presenters, who received rave reviews.

To Joe Farris, our keynote speaker; and Kenneth Ball, Cynthia Barnes, Greg Carter, Melissa Garner, Patrick Hoare, Joanna Jackson, Mary Langsdorf, Lois Lyons, Ryan Monk, Sheryl Peyton, Mary Ann Poli, Peggy Schumacher, Pedro Trinidad and Ricardo Veloz —

thanks for sharing your faith in such a loving and open way.

To the priests and deacons who made it possible to offer Mass, reconciliation and eucharistic adoration during the weekend — Father Frank Seabo, Father Matthew Kauth, Augustinian Father Jim Cassidy, Father Christopher Roux, Deacon John Parrish, Deacon Mike Langsdorf and Bishop Peter Jugis — sincere gratitude for your dedication to the youth of this diocese and the office that serves them.

— Paul Kotlowski, director of Office for Youth Ministry; Peg Ruble, associate director
Charlotte

Lessons of a term paper on television

Wishful thinking for responsible programming

I didn't expect Beaver Cleaver to be part of my Holy Week, but that's what happened.

Spring break from school arrived the week before Easter, and my 14-year-old found herself with a term paper to complete during vacation. So between movies, overnights with friends and Holy Week services, Maria — with a little help from me — researched how television has changed since the 1950s.

Maria found out what the Federal Communications Commission is, who Murphy Brown and Dan Quayle were, and why married people on television used to sleep in twin beds.

For Maria, old-time television meant reruns of "I Love Lucy." Her paper introduced her to "Father Knows Best," "My Three Sons" and "Donna Reed."

One day, I casually mentioned "Ozzie and Harriet." She gave me a quiz-zical look.

"Who," she asked, "is Ozzie?"

I tried again. "Ricky Nelson?"

"Ricky who?"

Here's what I learned: The big changes in television have come recently. It hasn't been a gradual evolution from twin beds to shows whose major themes revolve around sex and sexual innuendo. No, until the 1990s television was pretty tame stuff.

I also was reminded that while it would make life easier for me as a mom if Beaver and Eddie Haskell still domi-

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



nated the airwaves, early television presented an unrealistic worldview.

Did you know the word "pregnant" was banned on television in the early days?

In television's infancy, children were overwhelmingly male. Yes, the father who knew best had two daughters, but check out "My Three Sons," "Bonanza" and just about every other popular show. Boys populated the airwaves.

Another thing: In a diverse nation, did we see racial diversity on screen? Were there Catholics and Jews in TV land? Were American Indians anything besides fodder for cowboys?

No one divorced, and homosexuality didn't exist.

Although the number of moms working outside the home was growing, on television they all stayed home. And honestly, did your mother ever wear pearls to vacuum?

History was tumultuous: the Civil Rights Movement, the sexual revolution,

assassinations. Until Archie Bunker, no one on television noticed.

In the 1990s, Murphy Brown rocked things by rocking the cradle. Problem was, she was an unmarried mother; Vice President Dan Quayle was appalled. Some people suggested he congratulate her for not having an abortion. His ticket lost the presidency that year.

Today television still is mired in unreality, even while much of it is called "reality TV." The near constant sexual references are embarrassing, trite and unrealistic. If people really talked like that at the office, I tell Maria, someone would file a sexual harassment suit.

Women on television only grow thinner, while Americans grow fatter. While women finally have achieved respect as thinkers and doers, it's often at the expense of men, especially, and unfortunately, the bungling TV dad.

As a Catholic, I wish television mirrored my sexual ethos today instead of the raunchy behavior it dishes out as normal. At the same time, I wish that television, now and back then, witnessed to Catholic social justice concepts that are just as important.

It's hoping for too much from the medium that was, even in those innocent days, called a "vast wasteland."

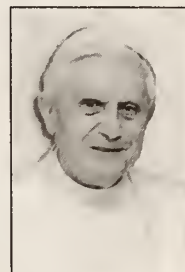
Here's the scary part: As unhappy as we are with broadcast television, today it's the tip of the entertainment iceberg. Pornography is available to anyone with a computer, cable television has few limits, and video and computer games are bigger financially than the film industry.

Beaver's dad didn't know how easy he had it.

At first audience, pope shares reasons for choosing 'Benedict'

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — At the first general audience of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI expressed again his "awe and gratitude" that God chose him to lead the Catholic Church.

God, he said, "surprised me first of all."

Although leading more than 1 billion Catholics is a huge task, the knowledge that he will have the help of God and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the spiritual support of the faithful "gives me serenity and joy," he said.

Pope Benedict began the audience by touring St. Peter's Square in an open popemobile, blessing the crowd.

He told the estimated 15,000 people gathered that in the coming weeks he would continue the series of audience talks Pope John Paul II had begun on the psalms and canticles used in the church's morning and evening prayers.

But first he wanted to share his reasons for choosing the name Benedict when he was elected pope April 19.

"I wanted to call myself Benedict XVI to bind myself to the venerated Pope Benedict XV, who guided the church in a troubled period because of the First World War," the pope said.

"He was a courageous and authentic prophet of peace and worked with valiant courage first to prevent the drama of war and then to limit its nefarious consequences," he said.

"In his footsteps, I want to place my ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony among individuals and peoples, deeply convinced that the great good of peace is, first of all, a gift of God, a fragile and precious gift to invoke, safeguard and build day after day with the help of everyone," Pope Benedict said.

The second reason for choosing the name, he said, was to evoke the spirit of St. Benedict, founder of Western monasticism.

"St. Benedict is very venerated in Germany, particularly in Bavaria, my homeland; he is a basic point of reference for the unity of Europe and a strong reminder of the undeniable Christian roots of its culture and civilization," he said.

Pope Benedict asked the saint "to help us keep Christ firmly at the center of our existence. May he always have first place in our thoughts and in all our activities."

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict led the crowd in singing the Lord's Prayer, which got off to a rocky start with some prelates singing in Italian and the pope singing more strongly in Latin. He waved his arms like an orchestra conductor, getting everyone singing the same language and in unison.

Breaking the law

Ignoring history and Scripture risks failure

I have never broken the law. I have never been arrested.

Yet I often think of Bishop Austin Vaughan, auxiliary bishop of New York, who, in the last years of his life of faithful service to the church, was arrested and imprisoned many times for rescuing unborn babies.

He saw what Christians were doing across the country as they peacefully blocked the doors of abortion mills to put their bodies between the babies and the instruments of death. Then one day he looked at his episcopal ring and realized that the three figures on it — St. Peter, St. Paul and the Lord Jesus — had all been arrested and imprisoned. He no longer hesitated to do so too if it was the price to pay for saving lives.

Human reason, Scripture and history teach us that while we are called to be law-abiding citizens, breaking the law is not always wrong. Take, for example, someone who breaks down the door of a neighbor's apartment to put out a fire, or jumps over a fence past the "no trespassing" sign into a neighbor's yard to save a child drowning in a swimming pool.

Those cases make it clear that saving lives takes precedence over laws that preserve less important values.

Lessons from Scripture abound. The Apostles were given strict orders



not to teach in the name of Jesus (see Acts 4 and 5). Should they have obeyed? If they had, we would not know the Gospel. Would we obey if that order were given to us? What exactly would we say to the assembled crowd on Sunday morning if such a law had been passed on Friday?

In Exodus, we read, "The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives ... 'When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth ... if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.' The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live" (Ex. 1:15-17).

They disobeyed the king's order because it conflicted with a higher law,

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK
PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



God's command never to kill the innocent. Daniel went to the lion's den because he disobeyed a law prohibiting prayer (Daniel 6).

History shows us Christians martyred for disobeying Caesar, people rescuing slaves, protecting Jews from the Holocaust and resisting segregation — all in violation of the law but in support of justice. The list of examples fills many volumes.

We risk failure if we ignore the lessons of history and the principles of Scripture.

It's easy to look back at those who broke the law in these cases and praise them. But when these same challenges face us, we find it difficult to acknowledge that sometimes the law must be broken. That's because now the sacrifices will be made by us.

I have never broken the law. I have never been arrested. But I cannot guarantee that I never will.

Father Pavone is national director of *Priests for Life*.

St. John the Baptist Church has long history of serving Tryon Catholics

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(828) 859-9574

Vicariate: Asheville
Pastor: Father Dean Cesa
Number of families: 455



Father Dean Cesa

TRYON — The presence of the Benedictines in western North Carolina has done much to build up the Catholic Church since the 1870s, when members of the order arrived in Belmont to establish a monastery and college. The monastery was elevated to abbey status in 1884, and in 1910, the Benedictines were given the status of "nullius" — that is, without diocesan jurisdiction.

While operating under nullius status, the Benedictines extended their work beyond the 500-acre estate upon which they had built their monastery and school. One such place was Tryon, where, in 1911, they built the first church in their eight-county territory.

With fewer than a dozen people in attendance, the structure was dedicated as St. John the Baptist Church in October 1911 by Benedictine Abbot Leo Haid. The congregation included the church's primary benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hallahan of Philadelphia.

Benedictine Father Michael McInerney, the renowned architect of Belmont Abbey, had designed plans for the church. In 1924, he began a five-year pastorate of the Tryon parish.



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Founded by the Benedictines of Belmont Abbey, St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon has provided a spiritual home for Catholics in Polk County since 1911.

From its founding until the reduction of the nullius to Gaston County in 1944, St. John the Baptist Church existed as a mission of Belmont Abbey. In 1923, parishioners — for decades numbering around a dozen — and local townsfolk directed a refurbishing project of the church and grounds. That year, a rectory was built. Father James Manley, the only priest in the church's early history who was not a Benedictine, served as pastor.

With the end of the Benedictine's pastorate in 1944 came St. John the Baptist Church's first resident pastor, Father Vincent Mahoney. Growth of the St. John the Baptist Church parish had been virtually nonexistent into the late 1950s; no reports exist stating that the church's seating capacity of 75 was ever filled. Still, an influx of retirees from the North, visiting and moving to the North Carolina mountains, began in the '60s, and a steady increase in church membership ensued.

Meanwhile, the rectory began serv-

ing a three-year period as a place of worship, when on June 25, 1959, the church burned.

With tremendous help from the local community, the parish immediately set out to build a new spiritual home. Gifts of money, materials and labor arrived from the area and from across the country. With a contribution from the Catholic Extension Society, construction began in January 1962.

Father (now Msgr.) Joseph Kerin served as pastor of the Tryon parish during the rebuilding phase, which ended

when Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated the new church in August 1962. About 55 parishioners composed the church family at the time.

Having served as a multipurpose building, the rectory had become nearly uninhabitable by the mid 1960s, and in 1967, a new rectory was purchased.

The parish continues to grow, attracting members from outside its Polk County boundary. There are many ministries working to meet the needs of its members and the community.

With a continued increase in the area's Catholic population — thanks to the continued migration of northern Catholics as well as improvements in roads leading to the mountains — the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church numbered 130 in 1973. By the mid-1980s, the figure had reached 300. Currently, more than 800 parishioners worship weekly at the church.

A Sunday evening Mass in Spanish draws about 40 worshipers and a newly formed faith formation program in Spanish is underway. Father Dean Cesa, who assumed the pastorate of St. John the Baptist Church in July 2001, has begun learning Spanish in an effort to communicate with his Hispanic parishioners.

The St. John the Baptist Church community celebrated its 75th anniversary in October 1986. As part of the jubilee, a church bell, donated by parishioners and the senior youth group was placed into the bell tower that had been built with the church in 1962.

Over the years, St. John the Baptist Church has been served by a number of outstanding diocesan priests, including Fathers Lawrence Heiney, Patrick Gavigan, Pius Keating, John Pagel, to name but a few of the parish's dedicated pastors.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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Mystery of the Mass, Part
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MAY 6, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 30

LOCKS OF LOVE



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Fourth-grader Violeta Gomez marvels over her short hair as Andrea Smith of Hair Associates holds up her braided ponytail at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, where 11 girls donated their hair to Locks of Love April 29. It was Violeta's first haircut.

Catholic students cut hair for good cause

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

SALISBURY — Eleven girls at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury are feeling a bit lighter today.

The girls volunteered to have at least 10 inches of their hair cut April 29 for Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Surrounded and cheered on by their classmates in the school courtyard, the girls — in kindergarten through fifth-grade — had their hair braided and then cut by Andrea Smith

of Hair Associates.

"I think it's such a wonderful, unselfish thing to do, especially at their ages," said Smith.

"It took a lot of courage to be able to do that," said Principal Kathleen Miller. "Many of them didn't give it a second thought."

Because the hair may help young cancer patients, many of the girls were happy to give up their locks — several of them have parents and siblings affected by cancer and chemotherapy.

"It feels pretty good," said fifth-grader Carla Curiel, running her hands through her shortened tresses. "It's not

what I expected."

"I'm glad I got my hair cut, and I'm glad I did it for Locks of Love," said third-grader Susannah Dixon. "It feels so good."

Two more students have volunteered to cut their hair in a few weeks after a music recital.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Locks of Love, visit www.locksoflove.org.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Women converge on Capitol Hill to tell Senate of their pro-life views

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — From college students to grandmothers, an assortment of women from around the country came to Capitol Hill April 27 to tell their senators that pro-life and anti-cloning views represent "real women."

The "Real Women's Voices" lobbying day, sponsored by six pro-life or pro-family organizations, brought more than 200 women to Washington, gave them a crash course in lobbying and sent them to meet with their senators about cloning, federal judicial nominees and parental notification before an abortion.

Another 1,200 women

See WOMEN, page 6

Discussing the pope

Panelists consider direction of the papacy under Benedict XVI

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Too much is unknown to predict how Pope Benedict XVI might change the Vatican's approach to world affairs, said panelists at a Washington forum April 29.

But speakers at the pro-

gram of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life drew on bits of information about the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's philosophy to suggest the new pope would be a

See POPE, page 12

Season for danger

Charlotte Catholic students see firsthand effects of drinking and driving in simulation

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Mangled metal. Broken glass. Eight teen-agers: some alive, some not. Countless lives changed forever.

Ambulance sirens scream in the distance, progressively getting louder. A medical helicopter hovers over the football field at Charlotte Catholic High School, prepared to pick up a critically injured patient and fly him to Carolinas Medical Center.

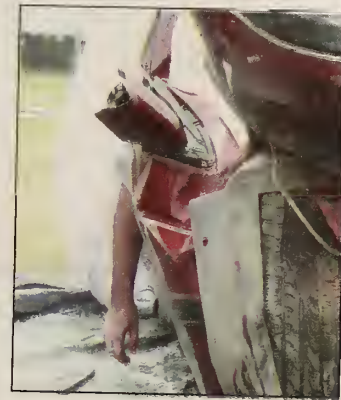


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A victim's arm is seen during a simulated car accident at Charlotte Catholic High School April 29.

See DANGER, page 9

Silence and solitude

Prayer center dedicated
in Stoneville

Perspectives

Bishop's letter on executions;
St. Paul and Christian doctrine

Spring Fling

Seniors gather for fun, faith
at annual event

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PRAYERS AND PERSECUTION



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A Chinese Catholic woman prays March 27 at the state-sanctioned St. Ignatius Cathedral in Shanghai. Members of the underground church in China have sent messages of congratulations to Pope Benedict XVI while urging him not to forget that they are a persecuted community in a country that lacks religious freedom.

Chinese underground Catholics tell pope, 'Do not forget us'

ROME (CNS) — Members of the underground church in China have sent messages of congratulations to the new pope while urging him not to forget that they are a persecuted community in a country that lacks religious freedom.

One underground community of Catholics in northwest China wrote to Pope Benedict XVI asking him "not to forget the suffering church in China" because it struggles "without any freedom at all," said an April 29 report by Asianews, an Italian-based missionary news agency.

"Ever since China's religious affairs regulations came into effect March 1, underground Catholic priests must report weekly to religious affairs officials on their activities and must ask public security officials for permission to leave the parish," the Catholic community said in its message to the pope.

China created a government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association in 1957 to bring the church in line with communist goals and to separate it from "foreign interference," such as ties with the Vatican. An underground church continued to exist and face persecution.

In recent years, Hong Kong church officials said up to two-thirds of the un-

derground bishops have reconciled secretly with the Vatican, and at the parish level, there is some mingling of the two churches.

Asianews said underground Catholics in Wenzhou Diocese in eastern China wrote Pope Benedict with their hopes that he would visit China soon and bring them "light and freedom" as well as lead them "in love and truth toward full communion with the universal church."

The news agency said the pope's choice of name had special meaning for Catholics in China.

Pope Benedict XV, who was pope from 1914-1922, "made special efforts for the church in China, enabling his successor, Pope Pius XI, to ordain the first Chinese bishops in 1926," it said.

In his note of congratulations to Pope Benedict, retired underground Bishop Casimir Wang Milu of Tianshui, in northwest China, said he was "praying intensely" that the new pope might visit China someday.

The bishop also wrote that Pope Benedict XV's 1919 apostolic letter, "Maximum Illud," called on Catholics in China "to sacrifice themselves for the sake of evangelization, not to indulge in court disputes, not to ask for compensation, but to forgive with love."

Faith not a factor in Americans' patriotism, Bush tells media

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nonbelievers are "equally as patriotic" as people of faith, President George W. Bush said in a nationally televised press conference April 28.

"I view religion as a personal matter," the president said in response to a question about whether he agreed with the opinion that the Senate filibuster against his judicial nominees was "an attack against people of faith."

"I think a person ought to be judged on how he or she lives his life or lives her life," he added. "And that's how I've tried to live my life: through example."

Bush said he thought some opposed his judicial nominees "because they don't like the judicial philosophy of the people I've nominated" and because "they would like to see judges legislate from the bench."

But, he added, "I don't ascribe a person's opposing my nominations to an

issue of faith."

Bush, a Methodist, said he took "great strength from my faith" but would not "condemn somebody in the political process because they may not agree with me on religion."

"The great thing about America is that you should be allowed to worship any way you want," he added. "And if you choose not to worship, you're equally as patriotic as somebody who does worship."

"And if you choose to worship, you're equally American if you're a Christian, a Jew, a Muslim," the president said. "And that's the wonderful thing about our country and that's the way it should be."

Bush's hourlong news conference focused primarily on Social Security reform, high gasoline prices, the war against terrorism and the situation in Iraq.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The next Just Second Fridays will take place May 13 at St. Peter Church Annex, Atrium Room. Edward Welch, professor at the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at Michigan State University, will present "Moral Values and the Marketplace: Searching for a Balance." Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 1 p.m. Sandwiches and cold drinks are provided. For details, visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace, "Upcoming Events."

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will offer a one-day workshop on the spiritual practice of *Centering Prayer* May 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Centering Prayer is an ancient way of knowing God through love in silence. Instruction in the tradition and method of Centering Prayer will be offered as well as experiences of Centering Prayer. The workshop is open to all Christians. Reservations are requested. For reservations or more information, call (704) 523-4641.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to an Evening of Reflection with Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast May 17 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The evening's topic will be "What does Mary say to

women today?" For more information, contact Roz Spinks at (704) 554-1281.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to the Women's Talk May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the reception room of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Larry LoMonaco, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral, will speak on "How to Love Someone who is Hard to Love." For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo* of Charlotte School of Leaders meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

MOUNT HOLLY — Father John Vianney Hoover invites all to celebrate the *29th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood* May 22 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Church on Hwy. 273. Bring a picnic to share after Mass. For details, call (704) 541-5026.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Protecting culture includes recognizing religion, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The protection of cultural diversity must include recognition of the importance of religion, said the permanent observer of the Holy See at UNESCO.

The observer, Msgr. Francesco Follo, addressed an April 27 meeting of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's executive council in Paris.

The U.N. agency has been working on finalizing a preliminary draft convention that would promote cultural diversity and exchanges.

Some countries already recognize "the cultural heritage of religious interests," which would be cultural or artistic treasures that the Catholic Church or other religions "regard as testimonies of faith" and are used in activities related to worship or other rituals, Msgr. Follo said.

Religious treasures of this type are not covered in the draft convention, he said.

He said religion is not isolated to individuals' private lives, but it also has an impact on the "public domain" and, therefore, deserves consideration for inclusion in the U.N. document.

Pope names Cardinal Sodano dean of College of Cardinals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the election of Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, as the new dean of the College of Cardinals.

The post became empty April 19 when German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope.

The six top-ranking cardinals of the

Roman Curia elected the dean from among their membership; approval of the election by Pope Benedict was announced April 30 at the Vatican.

Just five days earlier, Pope Benedict had promoted Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, to his former place among the cardinal bishops, as the rank of the six is called. Cardinal Arinze participated in the election of the new dean.

International cooperation needed to stop crime, says Vatican diplomat

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — International cooperation is needed to prevent crime, especially crimes that attack human dignity and threaten peace, a Vatican diplomat said.

"Crime prevention is no more a question to be resolved locally," Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Vatican's nuncio to Thailand, told the U.N. Congress on Crime and Criminal Justice April 18-25 in Bangkok.

Archbishop Pennacchio said the Vatican's primary concerns were trafficking in humans, especially women and children; the sale and possession of firearms; corruption; establishing law and order in post-conflict situations; and defending the rights of prisoners.

He said the Vatican supported the idea of developing an international "Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Prisoners."

"In this document, particular attention should be devoted to a treatment of prisoners fully respectful of their human dignity and their meaningful reinsertion into society," he said.

On the issue of human trafficking, he told the congress that the problem is related to increasing restrictions on legal migration worldwide, creating a market for the unscrupulous who promise to help the poor or desperate get to a new country and find work. Many end up basically enslaved and forced into prostitution.

The archbishop also urged much stronger international controls on the sale and possession of guns and other weapons.

"Clearly, there is a link between crime and trafficking in firearms that feeds terrorism at national and international levels," he said. "A reduction in the availability of firearms will facilitate the establishment of peace and security."

International cooperation also is needed to fight corruption, which undermines the rule of law and justice, erodes democracy, creates havoc with the economy and increases the suffering of the poor, he said.

Corruption also is a frequent part of the criminal scene in countries trying to re-establish peace, justice and normal social structures after a war, he said.

Unless there are competent police officers and judges, effective laws and a fair application of them, crime can destabilize a nation struggling to return to normalcy, transforming "the hope and trust of a population into skepticism, desperation and disillusionment," Archbishop Pennacchio said.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Anyone currently unemployed or concerned about their present employment situation is invited to attend the *Re-employment Support Group* held in the Parish Life Center, Room 8, of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will meet May 12 and 26, 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, call Colleen Assal, (336) 294-4696, ext. 226. Anyone with knowledge of job opportunities is asked to call Colleen to share them with the group.

HIGH POINT — All are invited to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's first *International Festival* on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 4-8 p.m., at the church, 4145 Johnson St. The festival will feature music, dance and exhibits from a variety of nations as well as food from the Philippines, Mexico, Vietnam, Poland and Turkey. Admission is free, but everyone is invited to bring a dish, preferably representing a foreign country, to share. For details, contact Larry Kwan at hkwan@lexcominc.net or Rita Leonard at (336) 454-3758.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford Division, Our Lady of Knock, is planning a trip to the *Franciscan Prayer Center* in May. Those interested in attending this outing are encouraged to call Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014 for further information.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr., will offer *40 Hours of Eucharis-*

tic Adoration May 11-13. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed continually, and prayers and supplications will be offered throughout the observance. The observance will begin with Mass May 11 at 7 p.m. There will be a prayer service May 12 at 7 p.m. and closing Mass May 13 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 872-2579.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — *Court St. Mary, Mother of God of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas* will hold an open meeting May 14, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall of St. Mary Church, 28 Bartlett St. Any woman interested in knowing what the organization is all about is cordially invited to attend. For further information, call Sandy Beauchemin at (828) 586-1136 or Gwen Parris at (828) 631-4127.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Helping Mother Earth



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-graders at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem help make the school grounds a bit greener by planting flowers on Earth Day April 22.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 7 — 11 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

May 11 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville

May 10 — 11:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

May 15 — 12:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Charlotte

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Scouts earn Eagle rank

LINCOLNTON — James Quentin Judge and Cameron Joseph Judge, members of Boy Scout Troop 112, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

James and Cameron, parishioners of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, received their recognition during a ceremony at First United Methodist Church in Lawndale March 19. Father Matthew Buettner, parochial vicar at St. Dorothy Church, gave the invocation and Benediction.

Among the key presenters was Mike O'Brien, mayor of Lawndale and former member of Troop 112.

"I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to recognize these young men, who have undertaken a journey down the same path sought by many great community leaders before them," said O'Brien.

"On behalf of the Town of Lawndale, I would like to say to the young men here and to Scouts everywhere, thank you for a job well done," he said.

For his Eagle Scout project, James spent 147 hours in April collecting 2,007 pounds of food and

other items as part of a food drive to benefit the U-CAN (Upper Cleveland Area Need) at the Bliss Center in Lawndale.

James recruited fellow Scouts and family, Bliss Center staff and members of local churches for the project, which helped restore much of the center's food supply, depleted during the ice storm in December 2002.

Cameron's project involved partnering with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department and Cleveland Regional Medical Center to help fingerprint and provide identification for more than 200 children during the Cleveland County Fair in September 2003.

Cameron recruited fellow Scouts and family, 25 students from Crest High School and eight law enforcement officers to fingerprint, photograph and fill out forms at the fair. The project took 110 hours to complete.

In addition to serving as altar servers, James and Cameron are active in helping the Knights of Columbus clean up the church grounds and with Operation LAMB.

Confirming faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with nine youths who were confirmed during a bilingual confirmation Mass at St. James Church in Hamlet April 26. Pictured (from left): Curtis Sands, Joseph Rizzo, Ben Jackson, Bishop Jugis, Ismael Gomez, Rodriguez Medina, Angel Lopez, Michael Cinco, Omar Juarez and Lesvia Juarez.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Matthew Buettner, parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, is flanked by Joseph and Quentin Judge, who earned their Eagle Scout rank in March.

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A place of silence and solitude

Hundreds gather for St. Francis Springs Prayer Center dedication

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

STONEVILLE — The prayers and vision of Franciscan Father Louis Canino recently became a reality as the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center was dedicated in Stoneville.

More than 600 people attended the April 23 dedication of the new non-profit, interfaith retreat center where all denominations are welcome for spiritual growth.

"The purpose of this center is to foster contemplation, justice and peace; to help people grow in the depth of their prayer; to strengthen their desire to find God; as well as to implement the values of justice, peace and charity," said Franciscan Father John Frambes, co-director of the center.

"This center is dedicated to seeking peace for those who find themselves bringing justice to the world," said Franciscan Father John Felice, minister provincial of the Friars of Holy Name Province in New York.

"I can't get over how beautiful it is," said Father Felice. "What he (Father Canino) has managed to accomplish is

no simple thing. His purpose is so wonderful. Father Louis was the driving force to make this happen."

Father Felice said Father Canino, director of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro, approached him in the mid-1990s with the idea of a prayer center to serve those in the Triad area. The request was unusual, he said, because at that particular time the Franciscans were closing prayer centers around the United States.

"Within every human being there is a call to be contemplative. Many are not aware of this potential," said Father Canino.

"The human psyche longs for solitude, silence and internal harmony," he said. "St. Francis Springs Prayer Center brings an ambience that will bring that into our lives."

"It is important to retain the contemplative spirituality of St. Francis while ministering to all sorts of people as Francis did," said Father Frambes.

The center features a chapel wing and a wing dedicated to the education of justice and peace, with classrooms for study.

"It is so unique. Every room has a



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Franciscan clergy and more than 600 people process into the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville during its dedication ceremony April 23.

view of the outdoors," said Ann Bauer, the center's business coordinator. "We are here to help people see how beautiful it really is out here."

Numerous volunteers helped make the center a reality. Eunice Barr, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, said her husband Clifford and Dan Camia, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, volunteered almost a year of their time working on the grounds.

"I'm glad to be a part of the whole thing," said Dora Garnier, a kitchen volunteer and parishioner of St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden. "I'm very proud of what Father Louis accomplished."

During the dedication ceremony, Father Canino thanked all those involved with the financing and construction of the center.

"This is a beautiful and peaceful facility," said Richard Crapse, a parishioner of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville. "It was remarkable that when Father Louis mentioned God, the sun broke through the clouds and stayed through that entire prayer. That inspired me."

"If everyone had a neighbor like Father Louis, what a wonderful world it would be," said Toby Koles, a parishioner of St. Joseph of the Hills Church.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Pro-life women converge on Capitol Hill

WOMEN, from page 1

signed up online to participate "in spirit" by contacting their senators that day by phone, fax or e-mail.

"Women are the bearers of human life and we must therefore be the protectors of human life," said Kara Klein, a freshman at The Catholic University of America in Washington, at a press conference on the event.

"We must stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves and say no to the violence of abortion, no to the violence of death by starvation and dehydration, and no to all violence that is perpetrated against women," she added.

The Rev. Alveda C. King, a grandmother, linked the fight against abortion to the civil rights movement led by her late uncle, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"If the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is to live, our babies must live," she said. "Our mothers must choose life."

Rev. King said she underwent two abortions before her six children were born, and suffered from guilt for years but eventually achieved healing.

"The doctor told me (the abortion) wasn't going to hurt any more than having a tooth pulled," she said. "It did."

Rachel Campos-Duffy, a former participant in MTV's "The Real World" reality series, described herself as "a product and former face of the MTV generation" — a generation, she noted, that has "never known a time when abortion was not legal."

Although women her age have been told since childhood that "the right to abortion was a hard-fought gift to us," she said, "my generation has more firsthand experience with the painful aftermath of abortion" than any other generation.

"We know that abortion represents failure: women in time of need being failed by their boyfriends, husbands, parents, friends and, of course, our society," added Campos-Duffy, who cur-

rently co-hosts the weekly cable series, "Lifetime's Speaking of Women's Health," with Florence Henderson.

Helen Alvare, an associate professor of law at Catholic University who recently was part of the five-member U.S. delegation to the Mass inaugurating the papal ministry of Pope Benedict XVI, said the new pope and his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, both "seamlessly ... wove together respect for the unborn alongside respect for every other human person — women, religious minorities, refugees and the poor, to name just a few."

"By contrast, how incongruous is the United States in allowing unlimited abortion rights alongside its many fine statements and demonstrations of respect for women and human rights," she said. "It doesn't fit together."

The "real women" lobbyists took messages to their senators in support of an up-or-down vote on President George W. Bush's judicial nominees, against human cloning and in favor of the Child Custody Protection Act, which would ban efforts to circumvent parental notification or consent laws in one state by taking a minor to another state for an abortion.

The House version of that bill, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, was approved on a 270-157 vote April 27. Its chief sponsor, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., expressed confidence at the press conference that the bill — already approved three times by the House — would also pass in the Senate this year.

Speaking about the rationale behind the bill, the congresswoman said, "A minor who is forbidden to drink alcohol, to stay out past a certain hour, or to get her ears pierced without parental consent is certainly not prepared to make a life-altering, hazardous and potentially fatal decision, such as abortion, without the consultation or consent of at least one parent."

Sponsors of the lobbying day were the Susan B. Anthony List, National

Pro-life official praises House passage of parental notification bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' chief pro-life spokeswoman hailed the April 27 House passage of legislation that would outlaw the practice of taking minors over state lines for abortions to circumvent parental notification or consent laws in the girl's home state.

Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said in an April 28 statement that "taking teens across state lines for secret abortions strikes at the heart of the family and the rights of parents."

"But more than that, it presents a grave danger to the girls who are subjected to an invasive surgical procedure without their medical history or records, and with no medical follow-up or intervention," she added.

About half the states currently have laws requiring parental notification or consent, or a judicial bypass, before a minor can obtain an abortion.

The Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, sponsored by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., was approved by a 270-157 margin in the House April 27.

The legislation, then called the Child Custody Protection Act, has passed the House three times — in 1998, 1999 and 2002 — but the Senate has not acted on it. The version now pending in the Senate is sponsored by Sen. John Ensign, R-

Nev., and has 38 co-sponsors.

"Yesterday's vote affirms the proposition that parents should be involved in abortion decisions affecting their teenage daughters — even when their daughters are taken across state lines," Ruse said.

"Abortion advocates have lost another round against a common-sense measure supported by most Americans," she added.

A poll released April 27 showed that 75 percent of Americans strongly disagreed and another 7 percent somewhat disagreed with the statement, "A person should be able to take a minor girl across state lines to obtain an abortion without her parents' knowledge."

Only 7 percent strongly agreed and 8 percent somewhat agreed with the statement in the poll commissioned by the National Right to Life Committee.

"This is very encouraging, but another example of how far down the 'slippery slope' we have descended," said Maggi Nadol, coordinator of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

"The idea that a minor could be taken, without parental permission, for surgery to another state for a life altering procedure is incomprehensible," she said.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

Right to Life Committee, Eagle Forum, Silent No More Awareness Campaign, Family Research Council and Concerned Women for America.

Jane Abraham, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, said the lobbying day was organized "because we know our nation is at a crossroads."

"We know that our senators' votes on judges, cloning and other pro-life issues this session will be decisive in determining what our nation will stand for in the coming generation — a nation that honors the dignity of women and children's lives or one that pits one against the other," she added.

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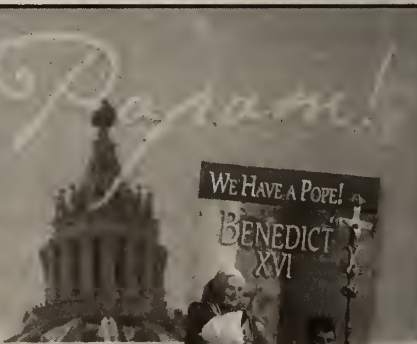
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Vatican official: Children's first Communion can help whole parish

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Children's innocence, openness and ability to be awed mean that, when properly prepared, their first Communion can be a moment when the whole parish witnesses how great a gift the Eucharist is, said Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos.

As soon as children are able to recognize the difference between regular bread and a consecrated host, preparations for their first Communion should begin, said the cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy.

In a January letter posted in Spanish, Italian and German on the congregation's Web site — www.clerus.org — the cardinal urged priests, in consultation with their bishops, to ensure that children in their parish are able to receive their first Communion when they reach "the age of reason," generally agreed to be 7 years of age.

In many countries, while Communion preparation classes accept 7-year-olds, many of the children do not receive their first Communion until they are 8 or 9.

Cardinal Castrillon said that in 1910, when Pope Pius X authorized publication of a decree saying that children could receive their first Communion "from about the seventh year," it "marked an important change for the pastoral care of children."

Pope Pius' decree noted that "a few errors" had been made in determining the "age of reason," so that until 1910 children under the age of 10 — and in some dioceses, under the age of 14 — were prevented from receiving Communion.

Allowing children to receive the Eucharist at a young age "has brought great grace to the church," Cardinal Castrillon said.

He told priests that Pope John Paul II praised the decision to allow young children to receive Communion.

In his autobiographical book, "Rise,

Let Us Be on Our Way," Pope John Paul said Pope Pius' decision was "a touching testimony of pastoral love for children."

The future Pope John Paul received his first Communion in May 1929, just after his ninth birthday.

Cardinal Castrillon told priests, "I think that one of the greatest joys for a pastor is to hear the first confession of children and then let them receive their first Communion."

"The younger they are," he said, the more certain a priest can be that the children "are worthy to receive in their hearts the sacramental Christ."

"In fact, the mind of a child who has reached the age where they begin to reason — and today this age is reached quickly — is open and available to welcoming the divine light that makes the mystery of God's love for man penetrate where it is able," the cardinal wrote.

"Faith raises us beyond reason," he said, "and this faith, which we frequently experience in our parishes, is very alive in children who are able — sometimes more than we are — to express their closeness to the Lord with prayer."

The cardinal did not mention ongoing discussions in the church about preparing mentally handicapped children for their first Communion and was not available Jan. 25 to discuss the question.

Cardinal Castrillon told the priests he hoped the "holy practice" of allowing young children to receive their first confession and first Communion would be better appreciated and followed during the Year of the Eucharist, which runs from October 2004 to October 2005.

The cardinal prayed, "May love for the most holy Eucharist be transmitted from the most tender age and the desire to receive the body of Christ become the surest path for building a future of peace and holiness, not only for the individual, but for the whole Christian community."

The first movement: The offertory *Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 15*

Last week, we were reminded that the Paschal Mystery — the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — is unfolded for us in every Mass in three distinct movements: the offertory, the consecration and the reception of holy Communion. Again, we discovered that these three movements together give glory to God and bring about the fulfillment of our redemption by applying the fruits of Christ's gift of redemption to our individual souls.

This week, we will take a closer examination of the offertory by answering the question: What is being offered at the holy sacrifice of the Mass?

1) The Collection. The first liturgical movement of the offertory involves the collection.

To support the financial needs of the clergy and the material needs of the church is one of the six precepts of the church. But more than an obligation, we have the opportunity to participate in the missionary efforts of the church by the funds that are collected at each Mass.

Our hard-earned money pays the bills to keep the church open and operational, supports the clergy, contributes to the work of evangelization and charity, and, most notably, buys the bread and wine that are necessary for the Mass.

Obviously, we do not have the capacity to give to God the thanksgiving that He deserves for all the generous gifts we have received, but we do make the best attempt by making a sacrifice of our own resources. The money represents our own time and talent given at work. And so the collection symbolizes the more important gift of ourselves given to God.

2) Bread and wine. Along with the collection, bread and wine are offered by the faithful in the offertory procession at the Mass.

These elements are so necessary for the celebration of the Mass that without bread and wine, a priest is unable to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. We will explore the use and significance of bread and wine in more detail in our next discussion.

3) Prayer, sacrifice, intentions. The collection, bread and wine are offered and presented to the priest during the offertory. But more importantly, we also bring our spiritual gifts.

During the offertory, we are invited to collect and present our prayers, sacrifices and intentions that are unique to the celebration of each Mass. We are given the opportunity to unite our own prayers, the many small sacrifices that we offered throughout the day or the week and the

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



many intentions we bring with the perfect sacrifice of Christ in the consecration.

4) Ourselves. These prayers, sacrifices and intentions are the spiritual form of the offering. When combined with the material offering of money, bread and wine, they collectively represent the meager gift of ourselves, generously presented to God for sacrifice.

5) The priest. All of these offerings are collected and presented to the priest, physically and spiritually in the offertory of the Mass. The priest accepts these gifts. And on behalf of the entire church, he offers them to the Father in union with the perfect sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

6) Christ. Here, we finally discover that ultimately, the offertory of the Mass does not primarily answer the question, "What is being offered?" but rather, "Who is being offered?"

And through the eyes of faith, with the light of reason and expressed through the liturgy of the Mass, we come to discover that it is Christ, the high priest, who offers himself to the Father.

And because we are members of his mystical body through the sacrament of baptism, we are also offering ourselves in union with Christ. As he freely sacrificed himself to the Father on the cross, so we are invited and encouraged to follow his perfect example. There we will find salvation.

What is being offered in the Mass? It is Christ, the head of the church, in union with his mystical body, you and me.

Next week, we will continue our examination of the offertory by answering the following question: What is the purpose and the significance of the bread and wine used at the Mass?

Father Buettner is parochial vicar at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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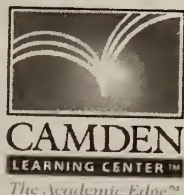
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IN OUR SCHOOLS

'The Sound of Music'



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students perform "The Sound of Music" at Asheville Catholic School April 15-17.

Asheville Catholic stages successful musical

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — The halls were alive with the "Sound of Music" at Asheville Catholic School.

Seventy-five students participated in the school drama department's production that played to sold-out audiences April 15-17.

Under the guidance of Alyssa Kennedy, religion teacher and drama coach, the production showcased the

varied talents of the students, from acting and stagehands to cooking and making programs, tickets and costumes.

Pete McHugh, a parishioner of St. Eugene Church in Asheville who once managed the von Trapp Family Singers, had brought pictures and background information to the students prior to their production.

The musical's story is based on that of Austria's von Trapp family, who fled their Nazi-occupied country in 1938.

Calculating the value of math

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Fourth- and fifth-graders set up their exhibits in the gymnasium of Asheville Catholic School for the first Math Fair Feb. 25.

Student participants explained their math projects to a panel of judges as well as to students, staff and guests. A group of students were then selected to compete at the 2005 State Mathematics Fair, sponsored by the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, at Appalachian

State University in Boone March 19.

Fourth-grade teacher Pete Hutchens plans to make the fair an annual event.

"It's a way for students to express ideas and an excellent way for them to see math used all the time and to know that math is everywhere," he said.

Representatives competing against other schools at the math fair at Appalachian State were fourth-graders Emily Bradley (first-place winner), Robbie Mangone, Abby Lenderman and Natalie Beach, and fifth-grader Patrick Eckerd.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

A group of Asheville Catholic School students competed in the 2005 State NCCTM Mathematics Fair in Boone March 19. Pictured (from left): Natalie Beach, Emily Bradley, Abby Lenderman, Patrick Eckerd and Robbie Mangone.

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- High School Summer Coed Basketball Camp for 3rd - 8th graders. June 13-16 from 9:00 am-11:00 am. For information call Brian Robinson at 336-671-1609.
- Basketball Camp for 4th-9th graders. June 27-July 1 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. For information, call Josh Thompson at 336-508-2550 or e-mail josh@netpath.net.

MUSIC & ARTS:

- Summer Stage Drama Camp: For rising 6th-12th graders. Voice, movement, acting skills, theater games and a final production. June 6-24 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Cost: \$300. For information call 336-564-1002 or 336-564-1010.
- Brass Camp: The third annual Karl Kassner's brass camp will cover technique, theory/ear training, clinics, and ensembles. For students of all levels in both middle and high schools. June 13-24 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Cost: \$350 two weeks / \$200 one week. For information call 336-778-2409.
- Guitar Camp: One-week camp designed for beginner- and intermediate-level students in both middle and high schools. Students must have their own guitars (preferably, nylon-string) and footstools. Sheet music and other materials will be provided. June 27- July 1 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Cost: \$190. For information call 336-564-1044 or 336-564-1010.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS SUMMER CAMP:

- Model UN summer camp is for 7th-12th graders interested in international affairs and politics. Sponsored by Bishop McGuinness and the BMHS International Relations Association. June 13-17 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Cost \$100 per participant. For information contact David Seidel at 336-564-1047 or email dseidel@bmhs.us.

High school students see drunk driving dangers



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Above: A Mock DWI Fatality was held at Charlotte Catholic High School April 29 to warn students about drinking and driving. Right: Charlotte firefighters work with students portraying crash victims.

DANGER, from page 1

Fortunately, this scene was only a simulation designed to show the students of Charlotte Catholic what could happen if they drink alcohol before getting behind the wheel.

With proms and graduation celebrations approaching, the April 29 Mock DWI Fatality was well-timed as a warning to students about the all-too-real repercussions of drinking and driving.

"This is the season when kids get hurt," said Lonnie Billard, Charlotte Catholic's drama teacher who coached the students for the simulation.

"It seems to be the consensus that students are going to drink, then drive," said Beverly Doyle, English teacher.

Hosted by the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, participants in the Mock DWI Fatality included the Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte Fire Department, Med Center Air, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Charlotte Catholic chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving and other agencies.

Matt Bazluki of the special services division of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and Captain Jim Dedmon of the public information office of the Charlotte Fire Department initiated the demonstration. Both men are graduates of Charlotte Catholic.

The Mock DWI Fatality featured two cars that had been wrecked in actual recent accidents. In one car, the "driver" and "passengers" — student actors from Charlotte Catholic — had been drinking, while the occupants of the other car were all sober.

Radio traffic from the responding emergency agencies was broadcast over the stadium's loudspeakers so the students could hear all the communication between



police, fire and ambulance crews.

At the end of the simulation, the names and conditions of each victim were read over the loudspeakers. One occupant of each vehicle died; the rest suffered various degrees of injury.

"It drove home the point that this is what happens when you drink and drive," said Christine Lawson, a senior at Charlotte Catholic and parishioner of St. John Neumann Church.

Fellow senior Lauren Maier agreed.

"(The presentation) gave us a visual image of what can happen," said Lauren, a parishioner of St. Ann Church. "It was more effective than other presentations we've seen."

Billard said his students asked him difficult questions, such as how they can protect themselves from drunk drivers.

But unfortunately there is no answer to that question.

"I hope they see the reality of drinking and driving," said Jerry Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic. "If it makes one kid stop and think (before drinking), it's worthwhile."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'Crash' has redeeming effects?



CNS PHOTO FROM LIONS GATE

Thandie Newton and Matt Dillon star in a scene from the movie "Crash," a powerful, beautifully crafted film with a strong moral center about a disparate, racially mixed group of Los Angeles residents whose lives will intersect in unlikely and redemptive ways.

Writer-director Paul Haggis takes a story and milieu that at first seems sordid and ugly, and with the help of a terrific ensemble cast, has fashioned a transcendently moving essay on the benevolence that may lie beneath racial intolerance, and the interconnectedness of human beings, showing how good and bad can coexist in all of us, and how the former generally prevails.

Much rough and crude language, some violence, many racial epithets, sexual situations, including one encounter with partial nudity, another with suggestive groping and innuendo, and a bloody traffic-accident injury. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 15, 2005

May 15, Pentecost Sunday

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
- 3) Gospel: John 20:19-23

Each person has gifts to share

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Several years ago I had the privilege of coordinating our diocese's first synod, an endeavor which lasted three years from the initial stages of planning to the closing liturgy and publication of the synod proceedings. It was a powerful experience of local church that I'll never forget.

Because it was our "first" synod, and since I for one had never coordinated anything of that magnitude, I had a great deal to learn.

There was much discernment involved in selecting a task force, so I gathered names of prospects, thinking about the abilities and talents each person would bring to the table — some were bilingual, speaking Spanish or Vietnamese; some represented rural parishes;

others had experience with youth; and still others were good communicators.

In addition, each person had to be able to fulfill a three-year commitment of meetings and tasks.

While the task force of men and women indeed offered the competencies that I expected, I was surprised nonetheless to discover gifts in them that I never would have anticipated — gifts that benefited us greatly in the ensuing months of preparation. One woman in particular wondered aloud whether she had any skills to offer, yet her prayerfulness and peaceful presence sustained us through many a meeting.

Another member proved to be my "rock" of encouragement, calling me up for lunch just when I was feeling overwhelmed by one challenge or another.

In addition to the surprising gifts brought by each individual, a collective spirit of good humor and optimism emerged that was contagious, spreading from that small group of 12 throughout the delegation of more than 500 men and women who met for the synod.

From that experience, I learned what it meant to trust in the Holy Spirit's creative and bountiful outpouring for the good of the church. Both the seemingly small and the considerably larger needs of God's people can and will be filled if each person surrenders to that life-giving Spirit and extends his or her own gifts for the benefit of others.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8-14

Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; Monday, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; Tuesday (Bl. Damien de Veuster), Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; Wednesday, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; Thursday (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras), Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; Friday (Our Lady of Fatima), Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; Saturday, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15-21

Sunday (Pentecost), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; Monday, Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; Tuesday, Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; Wednesday (St. John I), Sirach 4:11-19, Mark 9:38-40; Thursday, Sirach 5:1-8, Mark 9:41-50; Friday (St. Bernardine of Siena), Sirach 6:5-17, Mark 10:1-12; Saturday (St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions), Sirach 17:1-15, Mark 10:13-18.

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Catholicism, marathons twin themes for 'Saint Ralph' writer-director

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Michael McGowan, writer-director of the feature film "Saint Ralph," about a high school freshman who believes winning the Boston Marathon will be the miracle needed to bring his mother out of a coma, is like his film's protagonist: a Catholic and a runner. McGowan, who has run and won marathons, still runs four to five times a week to keep fit. "I can remember being a child and wondering, 'Why do people

walk?'" he said. With "Saint Ralph" playing the film-festival circuit before its release in theaters, McGowan has been running — well, really, flying — from city to city to take questions from audiences and journalists about his movie. And in the meantime he still has a family to tend to in Mulmur Hills, Ontario; his family includes a 6-year-old son and a 19-month-old daughter. McGowan said he set "Saint Ralph" in 1953 and '54 to join its Catholic theme

with its marathon theme. Catholicism provided "the bookends of people's lives" a half-century ago, he said. And, he added, it's plausible that a teenager who was a first-time marathoner back then would think he had a shot at winning the Boston Marathon if in the 1980s 16-year-olds were able to run a marathon in two hours and 16 minutes. He noted that the winning time of the 1954 Boston Marathon was 2:29. The Toronto-born McGowan, like

the movie's Ralph Walker (Adam Butcher), was educated by the Basilian Fathers at St. Michael High School, an all-boys school in Toronto. "It was a great experience," he said. But that, the Catholic faith and the marathoning may be the only similarities between him and his character. Ralph is an only child; "I'm one of six kids," McGowan said. And while Ralph is in danger of being orphaned should his mother die, "both of my parents are quite alive." In the film, Ralph exhibits all the drive and confusion of a 14-year-old. Once his hospitalized mother slips into a coma and is told that only a miracle will bring her out of it, Ralph — recently assigned to the school's cross-country team to channel his energy — comes to the conclusion that winning the Boston Marathon would be that miracle.

"Saint Ralph" received a classification of A-III — adults — by the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting for "profanity, rear nudity, a nonexplicit masturbation scene, underage drinking and smoking." The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13, which means parents are strongly cautioned and some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. "But make no mistake," said Office for Film & Broadcasting director Harry Forbes in his review, "for adults and older adolescents, this is a lovely, extraordinarily touching film that conveys an admirable picture of filial devotion, self-sacrifice, faith, good sportsmanship and universal fellowship." Among references to Catholicism in "Saint Ralph" is the use of "title cards" to mark the passage of time. In addition to artwork of stained glass, the cards note a saint's feast celebrated that month, and the people or devotion for which he or she is a patron. To be honest, McGowan said, "we backpedaled" to include the cards after filming had been completed. "There are a million saints for every month, and we tried to retrofit them" into the finished film, he said. Among the saints featured are St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron of hopeless causes, and St. Bruno, referred to in the movie as the "patron of the possessed."

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1725 NC Hwy 66 South
Kernersville, NC 27284**Panelists discuss papacy**

POPE, from page 1

peacemaker, including in the Middle East, and might well continue his predecessor's efforts to bring world religions together.

They also suggested a pope with a lower public profile than that of the late pope might be healthy for the church.

Raymond Flynn, ambassador to the Holy See from 1993-97, told of arriving in Italy to take that job and meeting with Pope John Paul II to discuss the U.S. government's diplomatic interests at the Vatican, including working for peace in the Middle East.

The pope said, according to Flynn, "if I had any problems I was to talk to Ratzinger — that's how he said it."

Pope John Paul added that then-Cardinal Ratzinger was "very committed" to peace in the Middle East. "He wants to see this happen," Flynn said he was told by the pope.

Flynn said the biggest challenge to the new pope's peacemaking efforts will be to bring together leaders of various religious faiths "so they can step over the political leaders" and encourage peace efforts by the people of their countries.

"I think he can do it," he said.

Newsweek contributing editor Kenneth L. Woodward, who has covered religion for the magazine since 1964, said he would expect Pope Benedict to make few changes in how the church approaches relationships with European nations and to continue to pursue peace and justice around the world.

Less certain is how the new pope will approach the question of whether the Vatican might back down from its strict opposition to the use of condoms in areas where HIV/AIDS is rampant, he said.

"I'm not so sure this pope is quite so intractable on this as his predecessor was," Woodward said, adding that it might depend upon what Benedict hears on the topic from the bishops of Africa.

A third panelist, Father J. Bryan

Hehir, a professor of religion and public life at Harvard University, was even more reluctant than Woodward and Flynn to try to predict the direction Pope Benedict might take the Vatican and devoted much of his commentary to discussing the differences in challenges for the new pope and his predecessor.

Pope Benedict stepped into a very changed world from the one that faced Pope John Paul in 1978, Father Hehir said.

The late pope became the head of the church at a time when the world's politics and problems were much more black-and-white. Since then, the Cold War has ended, political boundaries have become less clearly defined and relationships of governments have gone from interdependence to globalization, he explained.

Because most of the official documents of the Vatican are written as collaborations, and are not just the work of the pope, Father Hehir said, he expects continuity in most areas.

Flynn said in some ways the attention of the last 26 years to the individual at the head of the church has been misdirected.

"We've been putting too much emphasis on the pope as a person," Flynn said. "There should be more emphasis on Mrs. O'Malley," meaning average Catholics.

"We shouldn't be looking to the Vatican for every point ... about the faith," he said.

Woodward said it might be a good thing for the church if Pope Benedict is more of a stay-at-home, low-profile kind of pope than Pope John Paul was.

Much of the recent image of the church and the papacy has been directly related to the personal charisma of Pope John Paul II, Woodward said. A pope who is not as highly visible in all the workings of the church would open the opportunity for the world's cardinals to become more of the voice of the church, he said.

"We might see that the cardinals have something to say, something worth listening to," Woodward said.

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Public to get free memorial prayer cards

The Pope's Final Blessing is now being sent free as his lasting memorial to all

BY K.J. TEDESCHI
Universal Media Syndicate

(SYNDICATED) – Hundreds of thousands from all faiths are flooding call lines to get the emotionally gripping “Final Prayer and Blessing of Pope John Paul II.”

This final “Prayer and Blessing” is being received as a lasting sacred gift. Arrangements have now been made to send the free memorial prayer cards directly to all who want a lasting memory of the great John Paul II.

It has been announced that money can not be accepted for “The Final Prayer and Blessing of Pope John Paul II.” The memorial prayer cards are being given away free to all who request one. Those requesting the cards are only asked to help by volunteering a dollar to cover postage, handling and order confirmation costs.

This special devotion pictures the remarkably young looking Pope, caught deep in reflection while praying his personal papal Rosary. He was particularly fond of blessing rosaries for special visitors to the Vatican. The Pope's touching prayer itself appears below his image which appropriately begins “I leave you now with this prayer...”

“This closely guarded official Vatican photograph is truly stunning. It miraculously captures the Pope during his long Spiritual walk in life,” said John T. White, Director of Universal Museum Collections which has been granted special permission to give the prayer cards away free. “It is the most tranquil image of the pope ever,” White said.

Because of his worldwide following, it can not be guaranteed that there will be enough for everyone. But for at least the next ten days from the date of this publication, all those who request one will be assured of getting the special prayer card free.

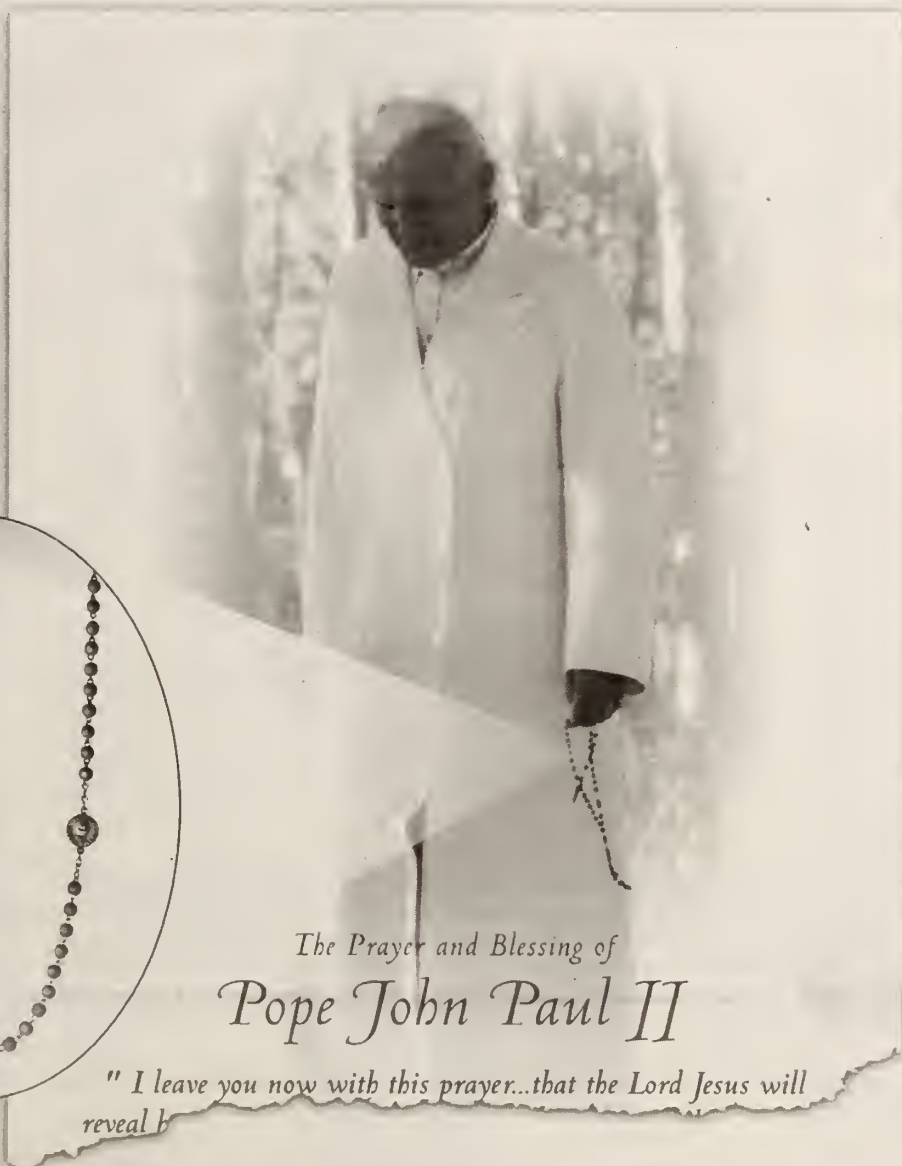
Universal Museum Collections is providing the information needed for all to get the Pope's free memorial Prayer Card along with information on how to protect it. Readers of this publication can call now 1-800-236-7918 toll free for instructions on how to get the free prayer card. A controlled number of larger full color laminated cards are also available free and have been specially reserved for those requesting one of our special rose scented Papal rosaries (shown right at eleven dollars).

Pope John Paul II gave his entire life in service and dedication to people everywhere. And now, the world is flocking to honor this humble man of God in the most fitting way possible.

The release of these sacred gifts gives people everywhere something special to remember him by. He was a great leader and a truly great man of God. ■

Writer's note: “I attended an audience with the Pope and was deeply touched by his charisma and spirituality. We were fortunate to get the special rose scented Rosary he had blessed. I believe the love of God radiated from his very presence.”

K.J.Tedeschi; Spring, 2005



■ **EVERYONE IS TRYING TO GET IT:** This is the closely guarded photograph of the late beloved Pope John Paul II taken by an official Vatican photographer. It appears at the top of the special Prayer Card, for which some are volunteering a dollar to cover shipping and service costs. The heart wrenching final prayer is printed below the Pope's image as he carries his personal papal rosary. Optional prayer card lamination and special rose scented rosaries are also available.

P0085 OF0166R-1

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How to get them right now

The release of the Prayer Cards has been authorized to the general public through the exclusive Universal Museum Collections. To get a prayer card and the special rose scented Rosary delivered to your home call the National Direct Hotline 1-800-236-7918, ask for Dept. PE4476.

Cross made with grains of sacred sand from Christ's tomb Free to all



Holy Land Cross is FREE to everyone. Now readers can hold sacred sand from grounds of Christ's tomb in their hands.

(SYNDICATED) – Sacred Sand from the grounds of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem has reached the United States in the form of Holy Land Crosses.

Universal Museum Collections is now distributing these Holy Land Crosses FREE to those who send three postage stamps to cover order acknowledgement and processing which includes shipping costs.

These specially made Holy Land Crosses were designed to allow the faithful to actually hold a spiritual gift containing grains of sacred sand in their hands and keep it with them where ever they go.

Kathy Tedeschi, Director of Universal Museum Collections said: “It is a wonderfully comforting item to have with you every-

day. When I hold this special Cross in my hand, I always feel closer to God no matter where I am.”

Both mens and womens crosses have been created out of fine porcelain embedded with grains of sacred sand and comes complete with a Certificate which verifies the authenticity of the origins of the sacred sand.

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2. Enclose along with 3 first class stamps. **MONEY CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Do Not staple, tape or affix the stamps.
3. MAIL TO:
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Perspectives

A collection of columns,
editorials and viewpoints



Calling for an end to the death penalty

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

It is very likely that in the next several weeks the North Carolina House of Representatives will vote on House Bill 529, which calls for a two-year suspension on executions in North Carolina. During this proposed two-year hiatus on executions, a thorough review of how the death penalty is administered in North Carolina will take place.

The Catholic Church calls for the death penalty to be rarely used, if it is to be used at all. In March, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched the Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty. My voice is joined with those of my fellow bishops of the United States in calling for an end to the use of the death penalty in our land. Our renewed call to end this most severe of punishments comes at a time when U.S. Catholics are becoming less supportive of the use of the death penalty (as revealed in a opinion poll conducted in November 2004 by the noted pollster John Zogby).

Whether or not our society chooses to end the use of the death penalty, the Catholic Church lends its most urgent support to all measures that seek to eliminate bias in the application of the death penalty and that ensure innocent persons are not erroneously charged with capital crimes and sentenced to death. I therefore support a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the state of North Carolina as called for in House Bill 529.

I share with you below section 2267 of the Revised Catechism of the Catholic Church (1997):

"Assuming that the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor. If however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person.

"Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities which the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm — without definitely taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself — cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent."

The Church's teaching on the death penalty is based on the principle that all human life is sacred, made in the image and likeness of God. If the innocent of society can be protected from aggressors with non-lethal means, then indeed, such means are preferable to the use of lethal force. Modern society has the resources to separate the violent offender from society and protect the innocent, a choice that also gives the violent offender the opportunity to reflect on wrongdoings and seek the path to redemption.

The Church's teaching on the death penalty (expressed in the very first sentence of the catechism's statement on the death penalty) states that this most severe and final of all punishments is to be used only when the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined. Support for a death penalty moratorium receives added weight and increased urgency from recent case histories and research documenting that the death penalty sentencing process has erred in convicting innocent people. At least 119 people have been released from death row in the U.S.A. since 1976, of which five have been released from prison in North Carolina.

Even assuming that there may be a limited and just reason to use the death penalty to protect society, the death penalty process must ensure that innocent persons are not executed. Since the evidence clearly suggests that we are not sure that this will always be the case, further study of the death penalty process is warranted.

It only seems prudent that executions should be halted while a study of the death penalty process takes place. An execution is currently planned for May 6, 2005 in Raleigh. Does it make sense for our state to continue executions in the coming weeks,

God protects, guides his people through hardships, says pope

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — God will watch over and protect his people at all times, even as they encounter life's dangers, temptations and hardships, Pope Benedict XVI said at his May 4 weekly general audience.

"The divine shepherd knows no rest in his work of protecting his people," he said. "God will take care of us at every moment with love, protecting our life from every evil."

For his second general audience, Pope Benedict gave his first catechesis on a series of psalms and canticles Pope John Paul II had begun before his death April 2.

In Psalm 121, "a psalm of trust," Pope Benedict said that God is shown to be the vigilant, attentive and caring "custodian" or "sentinel" that guards his people, keeping them "from every risk and danger."

The pope explained how this ancient psalm still has resonance today in people's lives.

As the psalmist speaks of the people of Israel who on their long journey toward Jerusalem resisted the temptations of the pagan temples on the hills by holding to their faith in God, Pope Benedict said people today will face similar temples of deceit on "our pilgrimage of life."

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



The lofty ideals of "wealth, power, prestige, a comfortable life, (are) heights which are temptations because they really appear to be the promise of life," the pope said.

"But we in our faith" in God know that these "summits are not true, are not life," he said.

Pope Benedict said those who put their faith in God have the "confidence of not being abandoned" during times of "trial, the assault of evil, persecution."

God protects at all times, "even during the night of our life," he said.

The pope ended his audience with a reminder that the month of May was dedicated to Mary, and he called on young people to "turn to the school of Mary in order to learn to love and follow Christ."

when we know full well that the House of Representatives will soon consider HB 529? Would it not be prudent that our state cease executions until the House of Representatives has at least had a chance to vote on HB 529?

The Church's teaching on the death penalty offers us a path to diminish violence in our society, not increase it. The teaching also considers the immortal soul of the evildoer, the one guilty of the terrible crime who is justly separated from society and punished for his transgressions. As we proclaim Christ's "Good News," our desire is that all might hear and accept Christ's message of salvation, including those among us who have committed heinously sinful acts.

The Church's opposition to the use of the death penalty in modern society and the Church's current concern that the death penalty process needs to be studied (to eliminate bias and errors in its application) in no way diminishes the Church's heartfelt concern for the victims of terrible acts. I call on all the faithful to reach out to those who have experienced the violent death of loved ones. Let us pray for their healing and for the souls of their departed loved ones.

Many of you respond to the advocacy appeals of the diocesan Respect Life Office and Office of Justice and Peace that encourage respect for human life. I commend such action that heightens our society's respect for human life. In contacting your legislators and executive leaders to urge passage of laws that promote the values and teachings of our Church, especially those that relate to the protection of human life, you promote the "Gospel of Life."

In time, such action can only serve to have a positive effect in increasing respect for the dignity of all human life, at all stages of development and growth.

Please continue to join your prayers with mine as we humbly ask our Lord to strengthen our efforts to promote a respect for all human life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Peter J. Jugis

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

WANT MORE INFO?

A tri-fold brochure by the Office of Justice and Peace, "Seeking Justice, Seeking Fairness, Promoting Life," on the Catholic Church's teaching on the death penalty and on the current campaign for a moratorium on executions in N.C. can be found online at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace (go to "Resources").

Radio, the lost medium

"Radio, it's the theatre of the mind."

So said Al Gardner of Charlotte's 50,000-watt powerhouse, WBT-AM, during a recent interview with Bishop Peter Jugis. The bishop and Gardner were guests on "The David Chadwick Show," a weekly program devoted to spiritual issues and hosted by Rev. David Chadwick, pastor of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Bishop Jugis was on the program to talk about our new pope, Benedict XVI, and the spiritual journey we Catholics have been on during the last month. It was a wonderful discussion by men of God that provided listeners with an hour's worth of insight and spiritual nourishment.

Unfortunately, The David Chadwick Show and Gardner's own morning news programs are two of few bright spots on what is a becoming a barren, almost dangerous landscape in the medium of talk radio in America.

Too often the theatre of the mind of American radio is a shrill voice of complaint against the people for whom America isn't the land of milk and honey. Gays, Hispanic refugees and the media are favorite targets for on-air diatribes that last for hours, days and weeks.

And it isn't just the hosts. Callers to these "shows" often voice hate-filled opinions that suggest imprisonment, banishment and even death for the target of the day. And all too often, the hosts encourage

these venomous speakers with smirking silence or out-and-out agreement.

If radio can be "theatre of the mind," as Gardner suggested, then a nightmarish vision of a radio netherworld can be found in the movie, "Hotel Rwanda." The film depicts the ethnic cleansing and genocide that killed more than 1 million people in Rwanda in 1994.

At the start of "Hotel Rwanda," the audience hears the soothing, convincing voice of a radio announcer making racist comments about the Tutsi minority.

As the country descends into the bloody chaos of civil war, the radio announcer is heard again and again. Each time he is more strident and bloodthirsty as he calls upon the Hutu majority to murder innocent people. Finally the announcer directs mobs from one killing zone to another in the capital city of Kigali.

It is the nature of media to push constantly toward the outer bounds of sensibility. Elvis' gyrating hips were too risqué for a 1950s television audience. Beer-guzzling revelers on an MTV spring break program would laugh "the King" off the beach for being overdressed.

In talk radio, this change has led to louder voices, less tolerant attitudes and more sensational parsing of the facts. A significant portion of the medium is in a downward spiral.

I know it's a free country and opinions are like cell phones — everyone has one. But at some point we have to recog-

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



nize that the level of discourse in America is sinking and we have no one to blame but ourselves.

As I watched "Hotel Rwanda," I wondered: How different is the radio announcer in the film from the real-life announcers we listen to every day? It is a matter of degrees. How long would it take for talk radio to spiral down to the lowest level of hatred and the promotion of violence? Two years? Five years?

Perhaps it will be longer, but the clock on the downward spiral is ticking. When are we going to stop listening and stop supporting the talk-radio trash? When are we going to demand that stations who are given the privilege of using the public airwaves be more fair minded and respectful of the diversity of American culture?

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT TO LISTEN?

You can listen to the interview with Bishop Jugis by visiting the diocese Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

Letters to the Editor

Governor poor example of Catholic politician

I find it a little over-reaching when *The Catholic News & Herald* features Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida as an example of a Catholic politician who balances church and secular laws ("Governor says Catholic politicians can balance church, secular laws," April 29).

I don't know if we are to be edified or dismayed by Gov. Bush's approach to rationalizing his support of the pope's positions on abortion and end-of-life issues. For Bush, Vatican positions on abortion and end-of-life help him realize the "value of life," while Vatican positions on the war in Iraq and capital punishment only "cause him some concern."

He even gets uneasy when the Vatican writes him letters about a death-penalty case. What is unsaid, however, is that Bush is not about to change his mind about capital punishment and the Iraq war, both of which are politically expedient issues, especially in Florida.

In my opinion, Gov. Bush is not a good example of a politician who can balance church and secular laws.

— Kenneth C. Schammel
Newland

No room for 'silliness'

It was disheartening to see the picture of a stain some thought to resemble the Blessed Virgin Mary on an underpass in California in such a prominent place in *The Catholic News & Herald* ("Our Lady of the Underpass," April 22).

It's a shame such silliness gets reported in our diocesan newspaper.

— R. Lawton Blandford, Jr.
Mount Holly

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

How did St. Paul learn Christian doctrine?

Q. Recently there have been some interesting questions, both at home and in our Catholic education classes, about St. Paul. The first is about his self-described "thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor 12:7). I've heard he was the first recorded stigmatic.

Second, where did he get his Christian training and authority? He had a dramatic encounter with Christ, but never met him in person. He did not know the other apostles until later. Where did he acquire the background he needed to teach Christian doctrine? (Indiana)

A. That's a very good question, because Paul's history as a Christian authority is special; there's no one else like him.

The simplest answer to your question is that he received his "Christian education" and authority to preach the Gospel directly from Jesus, no one else. Paul himself insists on this point. In his letter to the Christians in Galatia, he refutes attacks on his teaching with the claim, "I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal 1:12).

Other information in his letters and the Acts of the Apostles supports that claim.

Born in Tarsus in Asia Minor of Jewish parents, Paul eventually went to Jerusalem, where he became a disciple of the illustrious rabbi Gamaliel. Paul was

a fervent rabbi himself and a rigid Pharisee. But neither this nor any other previous experience could prepare him for that kind of conversion.

After his famous encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus, it seems he went to "Arabia" for three years, then preached the Gospel in Damascus before returning to Jerusalem where he met the apostles for the first time (Gal 1, Acts 9).

Clearly, he did not vacillate about his authority as an apostle, even to the point of challenging (and convincing) Peter and the Christians "reputed to be important" in Jerusalem about the need to be circumcised before baptism.

Key to his conversion and theological formation, of course, was his mysterious personal confrontation with Christ as Paul was on his way to Damascus to attack the followers of Jesus. Paul asked, "Who are you, sir?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting."

For the rest of his life, those words remained alive in Paul as a fountain of theological learning. Practically all the dominant themes of his teaching flowed significantly from his reflection on what Jesus said at that moment, particularly his majestic image of the church as the body of Christ.

On that day Christ did not say: I am Jesus whose friends or followers you are persecuting. He literally identified himself

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



with those who believe in him.

Over the years Paul drew the conclusion he expands on, for example, in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13. You have a variety of talents and gifts, he told them, bestowed by the one Spirit. But that Spirit of Jesus makes all of you one with him; you are together "Christ's body, and individually parts of it."

Another large element in Paul's formation, together with his mystical experiences (see for instance 2 Cor 12:1) is the conflict with the other apostles, referred to above, over the requirement that Christian converts be held to traditional Jewish laws. The resolution of that struggle contributed much to the development of the major themes of Paul's theology.

There's no question that Paul's total and immediate transformation by Jesus Christ has no parallel in Christian history, perhaps in all the history of religion.

Speculation never stops about the "thorn in the flesh." Was it sickness? Disability? Temptation? Pain? Interestingly, Hebrew Scripture sometimes uses that expression as we use "thorn in the side," referring to a person.

The context of those words certainly is open to that possible meaning. But there's no way to know.

Springing into fun

Senior citizens enjoy camaraderie, education at annual Spring Fling event

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — Once again, seniors from across Diocese of Charlotte descended upon St. Mark Church in Huntersville for a day of enrichment and entertainment at the 19th Annual Spring Fling April 28.

More than 225 seniors gathered for recreation, camaraderie and safety presentations. This year's fling featured storyteller Barbara Freeman, who entertained the participants in the morning.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the closing Mass to conclude the day's events.

Each year, the diocesan Office of Elder Ministry hosts the Spring Fling as a day where seniors can forget the demands of life and join others in the spirit of oneness and friendship, said Sandra Breakfield, director of Elder Ministry. All costs for the event are covered by registration fees.

Elder Ministry, a division of Catholic Social Services, provides guidance to parishes within the Diocese of Charlotte in order to enhance the well-being of

older adults. Annual events such as the Spring Fling and Fall Day of Reflection provide an opportunity for senior citizens to gather for entertainment, camaraderie, education and spiritual enrichment.

"Our goal is that the seniors enjoy being together and participating in the activities," Breakfield said.

"The spirits and faces of the people spoke volumes — everyone seemed to enjoy themselves," she said.

Many of the attendees took advantage of the opportunity to participate in several of the recreational activities, including chair exercise, crafts, line dancing and more.

Aside from an abundance of recreational activities, the seniors had several opportunities to focus on their health and security.

Participants were offered a free osteoporosis screening and information on arthritis. They also could learn about fraud and scam prevention from Maryanne Dailey from the Better Business Bureau.

"We try to offer opportunities for fun and fellowship, but also add a learn-



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Above: Bingo turns into a team sport for two women at the Elder Ministry Senior Spring Fling. The annual event took place at St. Mark Church in Huntersville April 28.

Right: Barbara Sajdak of Holy Spirit Church in Denver enjoys making a handmade bracelet in the crafts workshop.



ing component to the day," Breakfield said. "That way, there's something for everyone."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass,
Part 16; Pope John Paul II
on Eucharist

| PAGES 6-7

VOLUME 14 N° 31

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Aborted, but still alive

WOMAN SAYS 'POWER
OF CHRIST' IS REASON
SHE SURVIVED
MOTHER'S ABORTION

BY MONTE MACE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — "I was aborted and did not die." That statement might sound like a headline from a supermarket tabloid.

But in the case of Gianna Jessen, 28, of Nashville, Tenn., it's true.

Jessen told 500 students at the University of Kansas that her mother was seven-and-a-half-months pregnant when she went to a Los Angeles clinic for an abortion in 1977. But the saline solution injected into her mother's womb to abort the fetus somehow failed to accomplish its deadly task.

"By the sheer power of Jesus Christ," she said, "I did not die that day."

"The medical records state

See ABORTION, page 9

Swearing to defend the pope



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A Swiss Guard recruit holds the flag of the Guard and raises three fingers — a symbol of the Trinity — as he takes his oath during a swearing-in ceremony May 6 at the Vatican. Founded in 1506, the corps consists of 110 young Catholic male volunteers who swear to protect the pope, even at the cost of their own lives.

POPE CALLS SWISS GUARD
'SMALL ARMY WITH GREAT
IDEALS'

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — It may be one of the world's smallest armies, but the tiny corps of 110 men who protect the successor of Peter is big in spirit, said Pope Benedict XVI.

"This spirit of the Swiss Guards is nourished by the glorious tradition of almost five centuries of a small army with great ideals," the pope said May 6 in his address to new recruits, their family members and friends.

The 31 new recruits met with the pope several hours before they took their oath as members of the Swiss Guard in a colorful swearing-in ceremony in the courtyard of the

See SWISS, page 5

FLUKE OR INTERCESSION?

Some call firefighter's words, after years of silence, miraculous

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Many of those close to Donald Herbert, the Buffalo, N.Y., firefighter who suffers from brain damage, had expected that he would remain in the condition he has been in for the past 10 years, unable to see or communicate.

So when he spoke for several hours in late April, many

See MIRACLE, page 17

CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Base everything in the Eucharist, priest says

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In this Year of the Eucharist, it is especially important to celebrate the sacrament central to the Catholic faith, says Father Roger Arnsperger.

Father Arnsperger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, spoke about the signifi-

cance of celebrating the Year of the Eucharist to members of the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group at Myers Park Country Club May 2.

"The Holy Father asked us to dedicate an entire year to focus on Eucharist, which is the source and summit of the

See EUCHARIST, page 6



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KAREN A. EVANS

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is one of several ways to celebrate the Year of the Eucharist.

May crowning

Parishioners praise, crown
Mary during annual event

| PAGE 4

In Our Schools

Diabetes walk; scholarship winner;
history-making social studies project

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Perspectives

Bishop Jugis on giving thanks;
abortion studies, harmful effects

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

AFTERMATH



CNS PHOTO BY SHARIF KARIM

Lebanese clergy inspect the site of a bomb blast in the port city of Jounieh, Lebanon, May 7 after a bomb blast May 6 destroyed the Voice of Charity radio station, operated by the Congregation of Maronite Missionaries.

Catholic-run radio station in Lebanon bombed; one person killed

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — A Catholic-run radio station in Lebanon was destroyed in a bombing attack May 6, the latest in a series of attacks in Lebanon's Christian areas.

The attack was an apparent response to the station's campaign regarding the plight of Lebanese detained in Syrian prisons.

The Voice of Charity, operated by the Congregation of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries in the port city of Jounieh since 1984, was completely destroyed in the attack, caused by an estimated 50 pounds of explosives in the main square outside the building. One person was killed, and more than 20 were injured.

Several adjoining buildings were also destroyed in the blast.

On the day of the attack, the Voice of Charity broadcast live from outside Beirut's U.N. house, where families of Lebanese detainees staged a sit-in. Approximately 600 Lebanese — including two Maronite priests — have been either missing or detained in Syrian prisons since Lebanon's civil war, which ended in 1989.

Syrian authorities have denied the existence of the prisoners, and the Lebanese government has ignored the issue.

Former prisoners of Syria recounted their experiences of torture in

Syria's prisons during the Voice of Charity's live broadcast, and family members of current prisoners shared their frustrations about not knowing about their loved ones.

"We consider this attack as a kind of political response" to the May 6 broadcast, said Maronite Father Maurice Chidiac, co-director of the Voice of Charity.

"From now on we will consider the cause of the Lebanese prisoners as our case," Father Chidiac said. "It is a kind of democratic expression of our will and our prayers that this case will be sorted out very soon."

An hour after the attack, the station resumed broadcasting hymns from a transmitter from a mountaintop sanctuary; a liturgy was arranged in the station's parking lot May 8, and the following day a eucharistic procession was held around the grounds of the station and the surrounding damaged neighborhood.

The Voice of Charity has been broadcasting for nearly 21 years. The 24-hour station was able to reach Syria, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Cyprus and parts of Egypt and Jordan via its satellites and around the world via the Internet; its Web site is: www.radiocharity.org.

Bush urges Americans to pray in thanksgiving for their freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Americans need to pray in thanksgiving for their freedom and for the wisdom to use their freedom wisely, said President George W. Bush on the annual National Day of Prayer May 5.

At a White House ceremony, the president said prayer "continues to play an important part in the personal lives of many Americans."

"Every day, millions of us turn to the Almighty in reverence and humility. Every day our churches and synagogues and mosques and temples are filled with men and women who pray to our Maker," he added.

The president was joined in the interfaith ceremony by other speakers including priests and a rabbi.

The president stressed that Americans need to pray in thanks for their

freedom, which he described as a "gift from God" meant for "all men and women and for all times."

He also said Americans should "pray for help in defending the gift of freedom from those who seek to destroy it" and they should pray especially for the "troops who are defending our freedom against determined enemies around the globe."

President Bush also noted that Americans should pray to understand the limits of human strength and to recognize that their plans are not always God's plans.

He urged Americans to ask God for the "strength to do what is right and help those in need."

"We who ask for God's help for ourselves," he added, "have a particular obligation to care for the least of our brothers and sisters within our midst."

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oration of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to an Evening of Reflection with Sister of Mercy Jeanne Marie Kienast May 17 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The evening's topic will be "What does Mary say to women today?" For more information, contact Roz Spinks at (704) 554-1281.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to the Women's Talk May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the reception room of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Larry LoMonaco, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral, will speak on "How to Love Someone who is Hard to Love." For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — The *Rosary Rally* will be held May 22 at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East beginning at 3:30 p.m. All first Communicants are invited to wear their first Communion clothing and join the Marian procession. The Rosary Rally will include recitation of the holy rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School*, O'Donoghue School

and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965 is being considered for Fall 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com or Carol Vincent at jlclvincen@aol.com.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

MOUNT HOLLY — Father John Vianney Hoover invites all to celebrate the *29th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood* May 22 at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Church on Hwy. 273. Bring a picnic to share after Mass. For details, call (704) 541-5026.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church will host a *Discipleship Fair* following all Masses the weekend of May 21-22. Many of parish groups as well as outreach groups from the local community will have information available to help discern where parishioners can offer their time and

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says modern media should help ‘tear down walls of hostility’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called on the world’s news media to help “tear down the walls of hostility that still divide humanity” by reporting objectively and in a way that respects human dignity.

Speaking at a noon blessing May 8, World Communications Day, the pope said news media represent an extraordinary resource in the modern age, capable of bringing people together. An example came during the death and funeral of Pope John Paul II, he said.

But the media are also capable of damaging people and societies, he said.

“It all depends on the way the media are used,” he said.

“These important instruments of communication can favor mutual awareness and dialogue, or on the contrary feed prejudice and contempt between individuals and populations. They

can help spread peace or foment violence,” he said.

The pope stressed the importance of news coverage being at all times objective, respectful of human dignity and sensitive “to the common good.” That depends in great part on a sense of personal responsibility among those in the communication professions, he said.

IN MESSAGE TO RABBI, POPE CALLS FOR CONTINUED DIALOGUE WITH JEWS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message to the retired chief rabbi of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI said it was important for the Catholic Church to continue dialogue with Jews.

The pope made his comment in a greeting sent to Rabbi Elio Toaff, who

was celebrating his 90th birthday in Rome. The message was read May 8 by Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Vatican’s Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Rabbi Toaff welcomed Pope John Paul II to the Rome synagogue when the late pope made his historic visit there in 1986. Pope Benedict thanked the rabbi for his efforts at building Catholic-Jewish relations during the previous pontificate.

“Your birthday is a good occasion for renewing the commitment to continue our dialogue, looking ahead with trust to the future,” the pope wrote.

After Pope John Paul died in April, Rabbi Toaff was one of the first to pay his respects.

Papal power must be used to protect faith, Pope Benedict says

ROME (CNS) — The pope’s power is not absolute, but must be used to defend church doctrine against attempts to water it down, Pope Benedict XVI said as he took possession of his cathedral as the bishop of Rome.

“The pope is not an absolute sovereign whose thoughts and will are law,” Pope Benedict said. “He must not proclaim his own ideas but instead, in the face of all attempts to adapt or water it down, and of every opportunism, he constantly must bind himself and the church in obedience to the word of God.”

On May 7 Pope Benedict took possession of Rome’s Basilica of St. John

Lateran, the diocesan cathedral, as thousands of Romans gathered outside to welcome him.

During the liturgy inside the basilica, he stood at the foot of the bishop’s throne listening to Cardinal Camillo Ruini, his vicar for Rome, reminding him that the pope must be “the servant of the servants of God.”

In his homily, Pope Benedict said it is the duty of the pontiff to protect the word of God “so it is not torn to pieces by continuous changes in fashion.”

The pope cautioned against studying sacred Scriptures in situations too detached from the “live voice of the church.”

While the work of scholars can shed light on the Scriptures’ historical development, Pope Benedict said that nevertheless “science alone cannot provide a definitive and binding interpretation. It is not able to give us, in interpreting, that certainty with which we can live and with which we can die.”

Warning against “erroneous interpretations of freedom,” Pope Benedict also cited Pope John Paul II’s calls for the defense of human life “from the moment of conception to natural death.”

“Freedom to kill is not true freedom but rather a tyranny that will reduce human beings to slavery,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict said that whoever takes on the ministry of pontiff must be conscious of his own fragility and weakness and of the constant need for “purification and conversion.”

“But he also can be conscious that from the Lord will come the power to confirm his brothers and sisters in the faith,” the pope said.

talents. A Health Fair will be offered at the same time with free osteoporosis screening, blood pressure screening and information on health related topics. For details, call Colleen Assal, director of outreach, at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all women to a luncheon May 25 at Cardinal Country Club, 5700 Cardinal Way. Pre-lunch social will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12 p.m. The program will be presented by Sheila Duell, music director of Our Lady of Grace Church. For more information, please call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford Division, Our Lady of Knock, is planning a trip to the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville in May. Those interested in attending this outing are encouraged to call Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014 for further information.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others’ needs, please call the Prayer Chain at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the

death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — A Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated May 19 at 11 a.m. in the Parish House of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St. (wheelchair accessible). This Mass is for all those who have difficulty attending Mass and those experiencing chronic illness. A luncheon will follow Mass. Reservations are necessary. Please call Dot Luce at (828) 648-7369 no later than May 17.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., invites all Catholics who have been inactive, feel alienated or want to take another look at the Catholic Church to attend a series of sessions designed to address issue that have perhaps cause a feeling of estrangement. Remembering Church will meet Wednesdays through May 25, at following the 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 17 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

May 18 — 5:30 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Frances of Rome Church, Sparta

May 19 — 10 a.m. Diocese of Charlotte Foundation Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

May 19 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

May 21 — 9 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

May 22 — 10:30 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Lee Korean Church, Charlotte

May 22 — 3:30 p.m. Rosary Rally
St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Charlotte

May 23 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

A shrimp boat blessing



CNS PHOTO BY LAWRENCE CHATAGNIER, BAYOU CATHOLIC

Father Joseph Tu Tran, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Pointe-Aux-Chenes, La., in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, blesses the shrimp boats along Bayou Pointe-Aux-Chenes at a recent blessing of the fleet. The tradition invokes God’s blessings on the fishermen for a safe shrimp season and a bountiful harvest.

POPE ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF BISHOP FOLEY, NAMES BALTIMORE AUXILIARY

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop David E. Foley, 75, who has headed the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., for 11 years.

He also has named Msgr. Denis J. Madden, assistant general secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, as an auxiliary bishop of Baltimore.

The first changes in the U.S. hierarchy made by the new pope were announced in Washington May 10 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo.

May crowning

Parishioners praise, reflect on Blessed Virgin Mary during annual event

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — Parishioners, singing "Mary's Song" (a version of the "Magnificat") walked out of St. Margaret of Scotland Church.

Beside the front door, they gathered before the gray concrete statue of the Virgin Mary. Viola Henry, Maggie Valley's first Catholic resident, lovingly placed the crown of pink, white and purple flowers on Mary's head.

May 7, the eve of Mother's Day, was beautiful — warm and sunny after several chilly, cloudy days. Traditionally, St. Margaret of Scotland Church holds its "May crowning" the day before Mother's Day.

"I came to know [Mary] in 1978, when I prayed to her, 'Let me come to know and love you as one of my friends,' because I was a convert and did not know her at all except through rosaries at wakes," said Janet Horne, who makes the floral crown every year.

Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, led everyone in praying the rosary's "luminous" mysteries: "Jesus' baptism in the Jordan," "Jesus reveals himself at the wedding feast of Cana," "Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God and calls us to conversion of heart," "Jesus' transfiguration on Mount Tabor" and "Jesus institutes the most holy Eucharist."

"What does grace look like, or images of Mary?" Father Doyle asked in his homily following the Gospel account of the Annunciation.

In different cultures, Mary looks like the people of those cultures.

"However we image Mary," he said, "what was important to God was what was in her heart, her willingness to cooperate fully with God. As we near the feast of Pentecost, we see that she was right in the midst of the disciples, right in the midst of the Church."

What did Mary say to the disciples?

"I suspect that her counsel to them was to 'do whatever he tells you,'" Father Doyle said, adding that this is true for everyone — to listen to and act upon whatever God tells them.

Father Doyle referred to the slew of televised "makeover" shows, in which



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Viola Henry places a crown of flowers on the statue of Mary at the entrance to St. Margaret of Scotland Church. With her are her sister, Shirley Hillyer (at right), Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor, and parishioners Mary Witte and Janet Horne.

people try to change their appearances or to look like other people.

"The self-image that's important is that we are created in the image and likeness of God," he said.

Parishioner Mary Witte's image of Mary is one of constant support. Witte said she owes her own name to her mother's prayers, who prayed that if she had a daughter, she would name her Mary.

"I am Mary's namesake," Witte added. "She's always been there for me. I read Harry's (her late husband) memoirs again last night, and he wrote about his devotion to Mary."

Among the things that Harry Witte had prayed for was that the mother of God would help him find the right wife. Harry and Mary Witte were married 55 years.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dn.net.

Holy Angels honors volunteers

BELMONT — Holy Angels presented its 2005 Volunteer Awards during the 15th Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Banquet at the Sisters of Mercy Administration Building in Belmont April 20.

The banquet, celebrated during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, began with guest speaker Deborah Tourloukis, a Sept. 11, 2001 World Trade Center attack survivor, who spoke about the spirit of volunteering in the aftermath of that tragedy.

She applauded Holy Angels' volunteers and encouraged them to continue "carrying the light," which represents the spirit of volunteerism.

The 2005 Holy Angels Volunteer Award winners were:

Volunteer of the Year: Robert Grant, who has volunteered at Holy Angels almost weekly since June 2003; Volunteer Group of the Year: Duke Energy, whose volunteer group has assisted Holy Angels for four years; Ed Sabatini Advocacy Award: Bob Gwiazdzinski, a Knight of Columbus who has coordinated Holy Angels residents' annual Knights Boat Ride, Knights Christmas

Party and Family Association Cookout; and Dennis McClain Volunteer of the Year: Michelle Gassaway, who works with Holy Angels residents at Cherubs Café.

Volunteers to receive the Touched by an Angel award were Bob Moran and Mary Kane and "volunteers" Wesley Thomas, Katie Gray, Nelli and Krystal Strader. Named in memory of volunteer Kevin Patrick Crosby, this recognition is given to volunteers who offer angelic touches to their volunteer work.

Volunteers to receive the Angel of Friendship award were Tom Long, Smitty and Gail Hanks, Gail Blackburn and Sister Jill Weber. This new award was established to honor the one-on-one personal time and commitment that extends beyond the regular volunteer service and results in a special friendship with a resident.

Holy Angels, founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, is a nonprofit corporation that provides residential services and programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are Robert Grant (Volunteer of the Year), Michelle Gassaway (Dennis McClain Volunteer of the Year), Bob Gwiazdzinski (Ed Sabatini Advocacy Award) and Regina Moody, president and CEO of Holy Angels during Holy Angels' annual volunteer appreciation banquet April 20.

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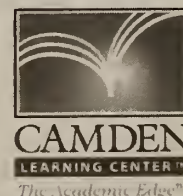
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FROM THE COVER

A 'glorious tradition' of a 'small army with great ideals.' — Pope Benedict XVI

Swiss guards swear to defend pope

SWISS, from page 1

Apostolic Palace.

The ceremony is held each year on May 6, the anniversary of the date in 1527 when 147 guards died defending Pope Clement VII during the sack of Rome.

The new recruits swear an oath to "faithfully, loyally and honorably" serve the pope, "sacrificing if necessary" their lives to defend him.

In his speech, Pope Benedict thanked them for their dedication, saying that by devotedly protecting the pope, the Swiss Guard allow the pontiff to carry out his mission "free of worry for his safety."

The pope asked the new recruits to seek out and nourish the spirit that makes the Swiss Guard such a special corps. May it also lead to "a true spiritual bond" among the guards, he said.

Pope Benedict said the Swiss Guard is built upon the "great ideals" of a "firmness of Catholic faith, a convinced and convincing Christian way of life, unshakeable trust and a profound love for the church and for the vicar of Christ."

He said the guards also represent "conscientiousness and perseverance in the small and great tasks of daily service, courage and humility, attention to others and humanity."

Swiss Guard recruits are required to be Swiss citizens, unmarried Catholic men between the ages of 19 and 30, and

at least 5 feet 8 inches tall. Even though they must have completed Switzerland's required military service, prospective papal guards still undergo a rigorous selection process and further training in defense and security.

Though Swiss Guards are no longer fighting battles with their broadswords and halberds, their daily life includes 24-hour shifts that often require standing for long periods of time guarding the Vatican's major entrances or working at liturgical celebrations and audiences.

The guards' one day off every three days tends to be busy as well, since it is often dedicated to inspections, briefings, marches, additional courses and shooting practice.

At the early evening swearing-in ceremony May 6, the Swiss Guard band played Gloria Gaynor's 1978 dance hit, "I Will Survive."

Starting in June, the Swiss Guard will begin a string of jubilee celebrations that will include festivities Jan. 22 marking their founding 500 years ago.

The guards will create a historical re-enactment of the Jan. 22, 1506, arrival of 150 Swiss soldiers at the Vatican marking the start of their centuries-long service to the see of Peter at the request of Pope Julius II.

The jubilee will conclude May 6, 2006, when some 100 former Swiss Guards attend the swearing-in ceremony after marching from Switzerland to Rome in 26 days — a much swifter excursion than the seven-month trek it took the first Swiss Guards to make in 1505-06.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Above: New recruits of the Vatican's elite Swiss Guard prepare their uniforms inside their barracks before their swearing-in ceremony at the Vatican May 6. New recruits are sworn in every year on May 6, the date on which 147 Swiss soldiers died defending the pope during an attack on Rome in 1527.

Below: Thirty-one new recruits to the elite Swiss Guard are sworn in at the Vatican May 6.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

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YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, speaks about the Year of the Eucharist to members of the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group at Myers Park Country Club May 2.

Base everything in Eucharist, says priest

EUCHARIST, from page 1

life of the Catholic Church, and also the mission of the church," said Father Arnsparger.

Pope John Paul II announced in June 2004 that a year of special emphasis on the Eucharist would be observed from October 2004 to October 2005.

"(The Eucharist) is where we get our energy to be built up in the body of Christ and also to bring others into (the church), so it becomes a part of the new evangelization," Father Arnsparger said.

Father Arnsparger said he hopes people will realize that the Eucharist is a treasure.

"When we walk down the aisle to holy Communion ... we go on pilgrimage to Jesus and he comes to us," he said. "Our hearts should be ready to leap, much as John the Baptist leaped in the womb of Elizabeth as Jesus came toward him in the womb of Mary."

"If we could develop a 'culture of the Eucharist,' that leads to peace, because we realize Jesus is walking with us — that we are not alone," Father Arnsparger said.

Father Arnsparger also hopes Catholics will have greater appreciation for the Mass and for all the liturgy, such as the liturgy of the hours, which "leads us to reflect on God's saving acts."

If people study the Mass, their participation will become more active and conscientious, Father Arnsparger said.

"I'm hoping (the Year of the Eucharist) will lead them to spend time outside of Mass in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament," he said. "People are so busy today, and they need to take some quiet time in adoration."

According to Father Arnsparger, during the Year of the Eucharist, people also need to focus on Sunday as a day of rest and recuperation.

"Sundays must be regained for the Lord," he said. "We need to reawaken to the fact that we need a day to rest."

"Often we put Jesus on to Sundays, even if that, and we get it over with," Father Arnsparger said. "But Jesus is walking with us every day, and it starts on Sunday."

According to Father Arnsparger, the more people become amazed at the mystery of the Eucharist, it will change hearts.

"It will change the way we make decisions. It will change our marriages," he said. "It will change my priesthood. Every day, as I become more amazed, I become a better priest."

The Year of the Eucharist is meant to lead people to a higher standard of holiness and the art of prayer, Father Arnsparger said.

"Prayer must be based in what God has revealed, otherwise we've made a new religion," he said.

Father Arnsparger offered several suggestions for observing the Year of the Eucharist, including: participation at Sunday Mass, visitation to the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass, setting aside Sunday as the day of the Lord, attending the diocesan Eucharistic Congress in September and forming a disciplined and ordered daily prayer life.

"We must be in communion with Jesus, so that we may receive Communion," Father Arnsparger said. "When we are in communion, then we develop deeper into being with God rather than being with each other."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



A life of devotion

Priest urges renewed emphasis on eucharistic devotion

BY TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

YONKERS, N.Y. — Franciscan Father Benedict Groeschel, an internationally known specialist in spirituality, called for a renewal of emphasis on eucharistic devotion and adoration.

He said attacks on practices such as exposition of the Blessed Sacrament had been expressed in books used in some Catholic seminaries, colleges and high schools and had led to the decline of such practices.

This "declining eucharistic devotion" is a "measure of the loss of faith," said the priest, who is a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal.

Preceded by Cardinal Avery Dulles and Father Richard John Neuhaus, Father Groeschel spoke during a March 14 lecture in a Lenten series sponsored by the seminary of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's in Yonkers, on the Year of the Eucharist.

Pope John Paul II announced last June that a year of special emphasis on the Eucharist would be held from October 2004 to October of this year.

He issued an encyclical titled "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," on the church and the Eucharist, in 2003, and Father Groeschel called his lecture a commentary on that document.

Holding a doctorate in psychology and based at a New York archdiocesan retreat center, Father Groeschel has built a growing reputation through extensive retreat work, writings and appearances on Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network, known as EWTN.

In 1987, he also led a group of six Capuchin Franciscans in forming the order to which he belongs. The order emphasizes preaching, missionary work and service to the poor.

The marked esteem and reverence in which Father Groeschel is held by many beneficiaries of his ministry appear to have intensified since his recovery from a near-fatal accident in Orlando, Fla., in January 2004.

Some lasting effects of his severe injuries were evident. He walks with a cane, and he remained seated to lecture. But at the age of 71 he has resumed an active schedule. He is a prolific writer and a popular retreat leader.

Father Groeschel traced the history of eucharistic exposition to actions taken about A.D. 700 in Lugo, a Spanish town near the pilgrimage center of Santiago de Compostela.

While the Eucharist had traditionally been reserved for delivery to the sick and



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

Father Benedict Groeschel speaks to the audience at a March 14 lecture that was part of a Lenten series sponsored by the seminary of the Archdiocese of New York.

dying whenever needed, believers in Lugo began the practice of putting it in a container that enabled everyone to see it, he said.

The widespread popularity of this practice developed later through the influence of St. Francis of Assisi and others, he said.

Father Groeschel said eucharistic devotion has spiritual importance because it is a way of responding to Christ that puts worshippers in his presence.

"He may not be present to you because you are not responding to him," he said.

The tabernacle containing the reserved sacrament should have a prominent place in the church, and should be presented in a manner marked by dignity and beauty to demonstrate its importance, he said.

Although there is a divine presence everywhere, Christ is found in his humanity in the body and blood of the Eucharist, he said.

Father Groeschel said eucharistic devotion was expressed privately through personal adoration and publicly through such activities as eucharistic processions.

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EUCHARIST AND EVANGELIZATION

Vatican posthumously publishes pope's World Mission Sunday message

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In his last message published to the world, Pope John Paul II called on the faithful to be “generous evangelizers” by fighting injustice and poverty while spreading the Gospel. On April 15 the Vatican released the pope’s annual World Mission Sunday message, which was signed by the late pope and dated Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

“In our day human society appears to be shrouded in dark shadows while it is shaken by tragic events and shattered by catastrophic natural disasters,” the late pope wrote.

He said the eucharistic celebration is “bread from heaven, which gives eternal life and opens the human heart to a great hope.”

The Vatican said Pope John Paul wished the message to be made public April 15 so that bishops’ conferences around the world had time to prepare for World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated Oct. 23 in most dioceses.

Addressing this year’s theme, “Mission: Bread Broken for the World,” the pope highlighted the task of pastoral workers and missionaries who “travel unexplored paths to carry the bread of salvation to all.”

The Eucharist is not meant just for oneself, he wrote; it is a gift that must be shared with all people.



“Passionate love for Christ leads to courageous proclamation of Christ, proclamation which, with martyrdom, becomes the supreme offering of love for God and mankind,” he wrote.

Pope John Paul wrote that the “Eucharist leads us to be generous evangelizers, actively committed to building a just and more fraternal world.”

He said he wished this year of the Eucharist would help inspire all Christians to show concern for and solidarity with those suffering from “the many forms of poverty present in our world.”

In his message, the pope said he hoped the many missionaries who died in paying witness to the Gospel would serve as examples that will help attract “numerous men and women to tread the path of heroic fidelity to Christ.”

WANT MORE INFO?
The full text of Pope John Paul II’s message can be obtained at www.vatican.va/gpII/bulletin/B0217-XX.01.pdf.

Bread and wine

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 16

We have been examining the first movement of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, known as the offertory. Clearly the most essential elements that are presented to the priest and offered for sacrifice are the bread and wine. Without bread and wine there is no Mass. Nothing may be substituted for these elements.

What is so important about bread and wine? Why do we use bread and wine at every Mass? We do because the Catholic Church faithfully imitates Jesus Christ.

At the Last Supper, the first holy Mass, Jesus commanded his apostles — his college of bishops — “Do this in memory of me,” thus giving them the power to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. The church faithfully follows the command of the Lord since she has no authority to change the essential elements of the sacrament.

In the same way that Christ ordained men, his apostles, to be his priests, the church may only use bread and wine for the sacrament of his Body and Blood (Cf. Catechism #1577). The church has the authority only to continue what Christ established.

In instituting the sacrament on Holy Thursday, Jesus accepted the gifts presented at the Passover — namely, the bread and wine — blessed them, gave them to his apostles and fulfilled the meaning of the Passover with his perfect sacrifice. Here, at the first holy Mass, Our Lord delivered the blueprint for perfect worship, which necessitated the use of bread and wine.

Therefore, the church has legislated that bread and wine are essential, necessary to the sacrifice of the Mass (CCL #924;926). What is so important about bread and wine?

At this point, we must penetrate a little deeper into the mystery of the sacrament. To do this, we will inspect these two elements on four distinct levels: the natural, the symbolic, the theological and

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



the mystical/spiritual.

On the natural level, bread and wine have nourished mankind for centuries; they are common ingredients in the human diet almost from the beginning of time. It is natural that bread and wine would signify nourishment.

On the symbolic level, both bread and wine symbolize the work of God and man — God provides the wheat and grapes, but man must labor to produce bread and wine. In order to manufacture bread, wheat is cultivated and harvested, sifted and ground into flour, added to water, kneaded and baked, before it can be used in the Mass.

Likewise, wine is the end product resulting from the tending of grapes, harvesting them, crushing them and fermenting the juice into a fine vintage. The process is time-consuming and arduous, symbolizing the cooperation of God and man, divine providence and human labor.

On the theological level, bread and wine are first mentioned in the Book of Genesis in reference to the mysterious priest and king, Melchizedek.

Melchizedek offered bread and wine as a gift pleasing to God. His sacrifice foreshadowed the one, true and perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who is the definitive high priest and king. Further, since many grains of wheat compose the bread and many grapes are crushed to produce wine, the bread and wine also theologically represent the church, composed of many members.

And on the mystical or spiritual level, since grains of wheat must be ground into flour and baked and grapes must be crushed into liquid and fermented, the actual process represents the agony, the suffering and the passion of Christ that brought about our redemption.

The natural, symbolic, theological and mystical/spiritual levels all demonstrate that bread and wine are not only necessary, but appropriate elements to be used in the perfect sacrifice of Christ offered in an unbloody manner at each holy Mass.

Next week, we will return to the ritual of the Mass to examine the preparation of the altar and the offertory procession.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner’s “Mystery of the Mass” series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

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First Communion



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Katy Kneisel is exuberant after receiving her first Communion at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem April 30. About 80 second-graders from the church received first Communion at two Masses celebrated that day.



COURTESY PHOTO

Benedictine Father David Draim (back right), parochial vicar of St. James Church in Hamlet, stands with a group of children who made their first Communion during a bilingual liturgy at the church May 1. Afterward, the children participated in the crowning of the Blessed Mother.

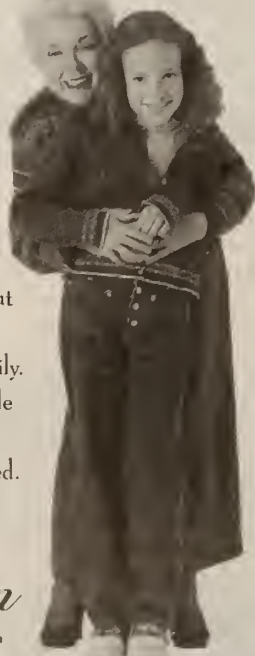
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Birthday blessing



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem offer a special blessing to Father Thomas Kessler, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church, during a surprise birthday celebration April 7.

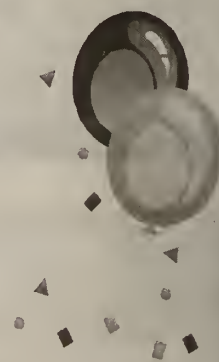
The student body wanted to thank Father Kessler for his dedication to both the school and parish, and presented him with a plaque listing the "top 10" reasons he makes them happy. Father Kessler was also given a special stationary box with personalized cards created by the school.

THIS MONTH IN —1999

Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments and then-president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, presided over a Mass with then-Bishop William G. Curlin and other priests of the Diocese of Charlotte at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte May 17, 1999. As part of his visit to North Carolina, Cardinal Arinze's stop in Charlotte was a celebration of religion, spirituality and culture.

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Aborted woman says Christ helped her live

ABORTION, from page 1

that I was born during a saline solution abortion," Jessen said in a recent talk. "There's no medical explanation of why I'm here."

"It's like being burned alive in your mother's womb for 18 hours," she said. "The abortionist on duty that day wasn't there and I thank the Lord or he would have strangled or suffocated me."

Jessen's early life was not much easier,

until she was removed from the abusive foster home in which she had been placed and adopted by Penny Jessen.

Although the doctors had predicted the baby would be "no more than a vegetable," unable to speak, see or walk, the kindly older woman spent hours with Jessen in intensive physical therapy that soon bore fruit.

In fact, none of the doctors' predictions came true. By age 4, Jessen was able to walk with a walker and leg braces. Today, she walks without the aid of braces, walker or cane.

Lifting leg weights has strengthened her legs and prevented her from falling down as often as in the past.

Now, her only visible disability is a limp. But she doesn't let that hold her back. She told the students she had been running several miles daily in preparation for a 26-mile marathon in Nashville in early May.

"The doctors said there was no hope and I would never progress beyond that point," she said. "They said, 'We know you'd never want to live like that.' What arrogance. How can you look at any human life and say there is no hope?"

Jessen said she has forgiven her biological mother, whom she has never met. But she criticized her mother's selfishness and cautioned young women in the audience to avoid the same trap.

"My biological mother thought she was making a decision affecting only her," she said. "If abortion is merely about women's rights, then what were mine?"

Jessen also said that she does not condemn any woman who has had an abortion. But she told any girl listening who was pregnant to find counseling and support rather than an abortion clinic.

Jessen's strong views have frequently put her in the public eye. She has testified twice before the U.S. Congress — in 1996 against partial-birth abortions

and in 2000 in support of the Born Alive Infant Act.

The born-alive act says any infant who is fully born and shows signs of life is considered a human person entitled to the full protection of the law — even if the baby is born during a failed abortion.

In 2001, following an abortion debate, Jessen received a standing ovation from a crowd of supporters of legal abortion.

In 2002, she was invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Born Alive Infant Act by President

George W. Bush.

Not everyone agrees with Jessen's viewpoint, however. When she was only 16, she testified before the Alabama Legislature. Afterward a woman in the audience told her, "Children with disabilities are a burden to society."

"That shouldn't be shocking because that's where we're heading as a society," Jessen said. "I love this country, but we've done some shameful things."

"When does it end, people?" she asked. "When we diminish life? What happens when it's you?"



CNS PHOTO BY PHOTO BY MONTE MACE, THE LEAVEN

Gianna Jessen, 28, of Nashville, Tenn., who lived after her mother aborted her in 1977, tells her story to about 500 students at the University of Kansas April 5. Though doctors predicted she would be "no more than a vegetable," Jessen was preparing to run her first marathon.

Poll shows majority in U.S. oppose all human cloning, most abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS)— The majority of Americans think all human cloning should be banned and abortion should be legal only when the life of the mother is threatened or in cases of rape or incest, according to a new poll released April 27.

The new survey by an organization called the polling company also found that 75 percent of Americans strongly disagreed with the statement that "a person should be able to take a minor girl across state lines to obtain an abortion without her parents' knowledge." Another 7 percent said they disagreed "somewhat."

"It's almost impossible to find an issue on Capitol Hill where you can get 75 percent" of the population to strongly agree, said Kellyanne Conway, CEO and president of the polling company, at a Washington press conference where the poll results were released.

Later that day, the House of Representatives passed the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, 270-157. The legislation would make it a federal crime to take a minor across state lines for an abortion in violation of the minor's home state parental consent or notification laws. A similar bill is pending in the Senate.

On cloning, half of the 1,000 survey respondents were offered four possible responses across a spectrum of opinion. In all, 40 percent chose one of the three options that would permit some or all cloning, while 55 percent said all human cloning should be banned.

The rest of the respondents said they did not know or refused to answer.

Only 8 percent said all human cloning should be allowed, 28 percent said cloning that "creates and then destroys human embryos for stem-cell research should be allowed, but cloning human embryos which would result in the birth of children should be banned," and 4 percent said cloning that would result in the birth of children should be allowed but cloning to create human embryos that would be destroyed for stem-cell research should be banned.

Among the 500 offered only two possible responses, 41 percent said they strongly or somewhat supported the statement that "cloning to create human embryos for stem-cell research which would destroy them should be allowed and only cloning for reproduction should be banned," and 54 percent said they believed strongly or somewhat that all human cloning should be banned.

Because the sample for the cloning

questions was only 500 people, the margin of error for those responses was plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. For the other questions, the margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

All 1,000 respondents were offered six possible responses when asked to describe their position on the abortion issue. Sixty-two percent chose one of the three responses considered "pro-life," while 35 percent selected one of the "pro-choice" options.

Here are the responses, and the percentage that selected them:

— Abortion should never be legal, 17 percent.

— Abortion should be legal only when the life of the mother is in danger, 14 percent.

— Abortion should be legal only when the life of the mother is in danger or in cases of rape or incest, 31 percent.

— Abortion should be legal for any reason during the first three months, 21 percent.

— Abortion should be legal for any reason during the first six months, 4 percent.

— Abortion should be legal for any reason at any time during a woman's pregnancy, 10 percent.

The survey was commissioned by the National Right to Life Committee, one of the sponsors of a "Real Women's Voices" lobbying day, which focused on several issues pending in the Senate, including a ban on human cloning and the appointment of federal judges.

A separate poll conducted by Ayres McHenry Association and commissioned by the Judicial Confirmation Network in March found that 82 percent of Americans agreed that any nominee for a federal judgeship who is well-qualified deserves an up-or-down vote on the floor of the Senate.

Nearly as many — 79 percent — disagreed with the statement, "If a well-qualified nominee is pro-life on abortion, he or she should be disqualified from serving on the U.S. Supreme Court."

"I believe what we are seeing from these various surveys is an informed society," said Maggi Nadol, coordinator of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

"People have seen first-hand what the fallout can be from laws that do not respect the dignity and sanctity of life," she said. "It has manifested itself in many unfortunate ways, both individually and culturally."

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

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WALKING TOWARD A CURE



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Students at St. Mark School in Huntersville participate in the School Walk for Diabetes April 18. The students raised more than \$22,000, which will be donated to summer camps for children with diabetes.

St. Mark School students raise \$22,000 in diabetes walk

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — Some children with diabetes will have a better summer thanks to the students of St. Mark School. The entire student body — 530 students — participated in the School Walk for Diabetes April 18.

Sherri Petrilli, St. Mark School's nurse, coordinated the event, which supports the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The school raised \$22,134, which will be donated to ADA-sponsored residential camps for children with diabetes.

In 2004, St. Mark School raised more than \$16,000 for the ADA, the highest amount in the Southeast and the ninth highest in the United States.

According to Suzanne Fulcher, coordinator for the State of North Carolina School Walk for Diabetes, the money raised by St. Mark School students this year will likely keep the school in their first-place regional and top 10 national spots.

"With the prevalence of type 2 diabetes today, the walk provided an educational opportunity for the children," Petrilli said.

A few weeks before the walk, the students learned about both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. They also learned about the importance of good nutrition and exercise in the prevention of diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes results from the body's failure to produce insulin, the hormone that allows glucose to enter and fuel the cells of the body. Approximately five- to-10 percent of Americans who are diagnosed with diabetes have type 1.

Type 2 diabetes results from insulin resistance, in which the body fails to properly use insulin, combined with relative insulin deficiency. Most Americans are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

Having diabetes increases the risk for many serious health complications, including heart disease, blindness, nerve damage and kidney damage.

"The students had a lot of fun, plus they helped two of their classmates, who are diabetic," said Petrilli.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Mercy and Samaritans

Our Lady of the Assumption students raise funds for AIDS patients



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

CHARLOTTE — Students from Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte sit with Stan Patterson, president of House of Mercy, a six-bed residential home for AIDS patients, after presenting Patterson with a check for \$1,730 April 14. More than 165 students raised the money by participating in a "Laps for Lent" walk in March.

Patterson compared the children to the Good Samaritan, who cared for the injured man he found on the side of the road. Recently, a patient came to House of Mercy in Belmont after being found on the side of the road.

"When each of you raised money for House of Mercy, I believe you were following the example of the Good Samaritan," said Patterson. "You decided to help someone you don't even know."

Immaculata scores at chess championship

HENDERSONVILLE — Students from Immaculata School in Hendersonville "cleaned the board" at this year's North Carolina Scholastic Chess Championship.

Twenty-six students from the school took part in the tournament in Charlotte March 5-6.

Out of 132 students participating in the K-5 division, Immaculata's K-5 team went home as the 2005 North Carolina state champions. Students were Josh Horwitz, Landon Rimbault, Aidan Balkan, Seth Jones, Adena Allen, Jarret Miller, Daniel Araya and Elena Durvas.

Individually, Josh Horwitz placed 11th and Seth Jones placed 19th.

Out of the 135 students participating in the K-3 division, Immaculata's K-3 team placed third. Students were Reid Motter, Taylor Jones, Alex Borg, Cassie Born, Clare Little, Cori Patrick, Brenden Balken, Patrick Tobacco, Korey Lovett and Phillip Katsadourous.

Individually, Phillip Katsadourous placed 9th and Reid Motter placed 13th.

Out of the 130 students participating in the K-8 division, Immaculata's K-8 team finished fifth. Students were Matt Horwitz, Britt McDanel, Rose Stroup, Vasili Katsadourous, Nicolas Araya, Owen Schoeff, Will Patrick and Nerissa Durvas. Matt Horwitz placed 11th and Britt McDanel placed 12th.

In a separate tournament that was part of the state championship, Matt Horwitz placed 3rd in the Blitz Chess Tournament.



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Dear Catholic Friend,

Yes, there is a life-changing opportunity awaiting you, and I'll tell you about it in just one minute. But first, please let me introduce myself...

My name is Tom Allen and I'm editor-in-chief and president of Catholic Exchange, the premier homepage for Catholics on the Internet. Among our major programs is Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), the world's fastest-growing Bible study program for Catholic parishes.

Already, many *thousands* of Catholics in the U.S. and around the world are deepening their spirituality, increasing their knowledge of our faith and growing closer to Christ through Catholic Scripture Study in their parishes.

Let me tell you more about Catholic Scripture Study and how it can enrich your faith, just as it has for so many other Catholics throughout the world...

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...Plus, there will be a special, eye-opening session on "The End Times," "The Rapture" and an absolutely devastating expose' of the "Left Behind" book series!

✓ **The Book of Exodus**—perhaps the Bible's most riveting book—in which you'll learn the real story of the ten plagues...the true meaning of the parting of the Red Sea...how the Passover prefigures the Eucharist and why that is so important for Catholics to understand, and much more.

✓ **The Gospel of John**, certainly one of the most beautifully written books of the Bible, authored by the "beloved" Apostle. You'll learn fascinating facts about the woman at the well, the marriage at Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle, why it's crucial that Catholics truly understand the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and why many of Christ's disciples left Him.



Mark Shea



Scott Hahn

About the Authors of Catholic Scripture Study

Dr. Scott Hahn is Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Scott earned his Ph.D. in Biblical Theology at Marquette University. He is also Founder and Chairman of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

Mark Shea is an internationally acclaimed writer and speaker. The author of *Making Senses Out of Scripture, By What Authority* and *This Is My Body*, Mark is a frequent guest on both Catholic and secular TV and radio programs.

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"I'm amazed at how much I learn each week. I'm growing in my understanding of the Catholic faith through the Bible. I'm very glad I'm doing this study." *Sue Alston, Indiana*

"It is not an overstatement to say that your program stands head and shoulders above all the rest. It was a unanimous decision to try CSS and we began with the Exodus study. We have found it to be excellent!" *Mary Johnston, Missouri*

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A special message from Gail Buckley, Executive Director of Catholic Scripture Study

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

My name is Gail Buckley and I am a convert to the Catholic Church. I thank God every day for bringing me and my husband "home." I know that the Lord did this for our good but I truly believe with all of my heart that part of His plan was for *your* good too! Let me explain.

Twelve years ago I had a sudden, *profound* conversion of heart. One night, in anguish, I called out to God and He answered in an amazing way. Immediately I was completely transformed. I was *truly* a new person because I had been given a *new* heart.

I didn't know at that time what the Lord had in store for me, but I was so grateful for His mercy and His patience in having waited so long for me to come back to Him that I vowed that I was His willing servant, ready to do whatever He desired. I never really thought He would expect much from me since I didn't believe I had any special talent He could use. But as I later realized, God doesn't need anything from us but our willingness to serve Him. He provides all that is *needed*.

It soon became evident to me that God *did* have something particular in mind for me, but I didn't have any idea what it was. I prayed constantly asking Him to reveal this to me but unlike that initial life-changing prayer, this prayer seemed to fall on deaf ears.

It wasn't until a few years later that I realized what was happening. It's always in hindsight that we see what God has been doing in our lives, isn't it? I'm sure He knows we'd probably freak out if we knew beforehand what He has prepared for us. I think Moses would have run for the hills if He knew beforehand that God was going to send him into the wilderness to spend forty years listening to all those grumbling and complaining people, don't you?

God knows us and He knows how to prepare us. He leads us gently by the hand and before we know it, we're somewhere we never expected to be doing something we never dreamed we'd be able to accomplish. And you know what? He usually chooses the least like-

ly people to accomplish things because then others will realize that it must be God doing this!

I have been working with Catholic Scripture Study since the inception of the Catholic Exchange website, where we initially posted the studies. During that time I've corresponded with thousands of people about Bible study.

I quickly learned that most people want to have a truly Catholic Bible study program in their parish but they want someone else to start it. Very few people feel qualified to start a group study program. This was very frustrating to me because I had a burning desire in my heart for my Catholic brothers and sisters to know the transforming power of God's Word which I felt could be best experienced in a group study setting.

I'd had that in my life and knew it to be true. I wanted others to have that same life-changing experience too.

Then I realized, I *knew* the answer. Even though I had long ago ceased asking, God finally responded to my plea to reveal His plan for me. *It was crystal clear to me.* God wanted me to bring to my Catholic brethren the same experience I had in Bible study as a Protestant.

So I made a proposal to Catholic Exchange to write and develop a Bible study program for group use in parishes using their wonderful studies written by Dr. Scott Hahn and Mark Shea. They enthusiastically agreed and gave me their full support. I got off the phone and said, "Oh Lord, what have I done? How am I going to do this?" But I knew, deep in my heart, that it was not me, but the Lord who was going to do it. And He has!

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS) was launched in 2003 with 60 groups around the U.S. participating. It wasn't long before God moved the program into other countries and we changed our name to Catholic Scripture Study International to reflect our new status. Now, in our second year, we have QUADRUPLED our membership



and have groups in Israel, China, Belgium, Africa, the Philippines, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, India and the United Arab Emirates! See what God has done!

And this is the purpose of this letter. I want *everyone* to know about Catholic Scripture Study. It is truly a life-changing Bible study. How can it not be with Scripture scholar Dr. Scott Hahn and award-winning writer Mark Shea as its authors? The weekly class format is also so enriching. The group dynamic is something that can't be beat. Coming together with other Catholics and studying God's Word is a true spiritual adventure.

God wasn't finished designing our wonderful program, though. As we know, God does things perfectly so He sent two of His best men, Father Patrick Winslow and Father Matthew Kauth to complete His gift (yes, I truly believe this Bible study program is a gift to His Church). These two priests are wonderful, young and super-talented speakers and they are doing the lectures for the Bible studies.

I hope you won't pass up this opportunity to enrich your life with a Bible study that gives you not only Scriptural knowledge, but also a deeper understanding of your own Catholic faith and how your faith is rooted in the Bible. And you'll not only learn and grow spiritually but you'll build friendships that will last a lifetime with people who will grow with you and support you in prayer.

Please take the time to review the rest of the information on this page and learn more about Catholic Scripture Study and how it can change your life, just as it has changed the lives of thousands of Catholics around the world!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Gail Buckley
Gail Buckley, Executive Director
Catholic Scripture Study International



Fr. Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Franklin, NC, and Fr. Patrick Winslow, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Jefferson, NC, provide the lectures for the CSS studies.



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Or if you prefer, you can get more information by visiting our website, www.catholicscripturestudy.com.

Remember, a life-changing opportunity is waiting for you in CSS, so contact us today!

Yours in Christ,

Tom Allen
Tom Allen, President

P.S. St. Jerome said that to truly know Christ, we must know Scripture. So right now, call us at 1-866-887-CSSI (2774) or visit our website, www.catholicscripturestudy.com.

Then get ready to enjoy the world's fastest-growing Catholic Bible study program—a program that will leave you saying, "I didn't know *that*!"

Bishop McGuinness sweeps Harvard Model Congress

KERNERSVILLE — A group of students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville was recently recognized with awards of excellence.

Twenty-five Bishop McGuinness students were among the 1,300 students who participated in the 20 annual Harvard Model Congress in Boston March 3-6. Facilitated by Harvard University students, the Harvard Model Congress is the largest government simulation in the country.

The Harvard Model Congress is designed to inspire high school students to participate in civic life by creating a dynamic environment where they can learn from one another and through their interactions with American democracy.

Currently, nearly 2,000 students participate each year in the Harvard Model Congress conferences in Boston and San Francisco.

At the Boston conference, Bishop McGuinness students were recognized with 15 awards of excellence, 20 percent of all the awards given and eight more than the next-recognized high school.

The Bishop McGuinness Supreme Court team of Rachel Anemone and P.J. Dascoli took top honors out of 28 teams. Student John Valitutto was recognized as "Best Delegate" in the Constitutional

Convention while student Brendan Regan took top honors in the Historical Committee.

Award winners in the House and Senate include Matthew Balser, Nick Butler, Jordan Cain, Samantha Cibelli, Chris Coggin, Matt Maloney, Michael O'Shea, Matthew Pentz, Jennifer Spillane, Richard Valitutto and Lauren Watkins.

Michael Streich and alumnus Charlie McCurry coached the team. Other faculty advisors included Tara Porter and Carol London. The Supreme Court team was coached by Liz Arias, Joanne Waters and Stuart Brock of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice.

Alumnus Patrick Nolan also joined the group during the event to help team members and give expert testimony in the House Armed Services Committee.

Other Bishop McGuinness delegates included Alexa Carda, Jordan Foley, Heather Hofmann, Jonathan Merlini, Neil Miller, Margaret Minton, P.J. Stanford, Matthew Sutter, Andy Ronan and Jennifer Williams.

Students also participated in a tour of Boston's Old North End and Old Sturbridge Village, traveled to the Harvard campus to sit in on classes and attended Mass.

Charlotte Catholic senior wins prestigious scholarship

CHARLOTTE — Samson Zebene Mesele, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, was among 43 high school students to win the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's most prestigious scholarship program.

Mesele was among 22 semifinalists from Mecklenburg County and 112 finalists from the nation for a 2005 Morehead scholarship, provided by the John Motley Morehead Foundation. The scholarship, among the largest and most competitive in the United States, pays all expenses for four years, including a laptop computer, and four summer enrichment experiences.

The winners, chosen from 1,362 students nominated by their high schools in October 2004, were announced by the Morehead Central Selection Committee March 11. The value for this award is about \$80,000 for residents of North Carolina.

"This year's candidate group was the strongest and largest in the history of the Morehead Program, and the committees had to make a lot of difficult decisions," said Charles Lovelace, the foundation's executive director.

Mesele, who was born in Germany to Ethiopian parents, is the highest-ranked senior at the high school. He is also a National Achievement Scholar, a "commended" student in the National Merit Scholarship Program and was nominated by Principal Jerry Healy for this year's Principal Leadership Award, given to a senior through the

National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Mesele was nominated for the Morehead scholarship by Charlotte Catholic's scholarship committee.

He also was nominated by Charlotte Catholic faculty to participate at this summer's African American Catholic Leadership Development Seminar at the University of Notre Dame. This scholarship-based seminar is for 40 students chosen from national and international nominations.

Mesele also was selected to represent Charlotte Catholic at this year's North Carolina Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics at Appalachian State University.

Additionally, he plays on the school's championship soccer team; is an Eagle Scout; a black-belt competitor and instructor in Tae Kwon Do; vice president of his school's Executive Student Council, Beta Club and Spanish Honor Society; president of the National Conference for Community Justice; and a talented musician and actor.

"A common expression used by faculty in describing Samson's class work is that he is both academically gifted and the hardest-working student in class," said Sandy Needham, a guidance counselor who recommended Mesele for the scholarship.

"Samson is the quintessential well-rounded student," said Needham. "He is the complete package as a student, athlete, leader, volunteer and worker."



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville raise the roof of Winston-Salem's Reynolds Auditorium with their production of "Beauty and the Beast" March 9-12.

BMHS marks landmark show with 'Beauty and the Beast'

KERNERSVILLE — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School scored one of its biggest musical and drama production successes with Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," presented in Winston-Salem's Reynolds Auditorium March 9-12.

The participation of more than 91 students — including cast, orchestra and technical crew — marked this ambitious project undertaken by the school's drama program.

"This production has elevated the standard and level of our entire program," said Sister Ann Thomas Taylor, dean of students and one of the show's producers.

"We put up a show that is not typical for a high school," she said. "Our students and all of the parent volunteers put their hearts into this project, dedicated their time and energy and considerable talent to make it a great success."

After acquiring the rights to the show in September, the students began a well-orchestrated 10-week journey of set construction, costume creation and design. Additionally, Micki Sharpe, a Philadelphia-based actress with performance experience in Philadelphia and New York, directed the production. She spent 10 weeks in North Carolina over-

seeing the project as well as directing the performers' intensive singing and dancing rehearsals.

"I am immensely proud of everyone — students, parents and colleagues — who helped to make such a successful production," said Dr. Alan Hirsh, head of the school's music program.

"The sheer amount of music in 'Beauty and the Beast' exceeds that of other shows we've done in the past," he said. "But the orchestra faced this challenge head on and the result was amazing. I was truly inspired by our students' hard work, time and energy."

The role of Belle went to senior Alona Metcalf. It was her ninth and final performance at Bishop McGuinness. Junior J.C. Bobbitt made his fourth appearance in a school production in the role of the Beast.

"This was the finest production in the school's history, a real showcase for the extraordinary talents of our students with interest in the performing arts," said Principal George Repass.

"Our quest for excellence in this area has been one of our highest priorities in recent years, and the exceptional product yielded by this project is real proof of the success of that effort," he said. "We are all extremely proud."

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IHM social studies project entered into U.S. Library of Congress

HIGH POINT — A project undertaken by students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point will be a part of the U.S. Library of Congress.

In 2003, teacher Sharon Kalbaugh had students interview U.S. military veterans — their family, friends and neighbors — as part of a social studies project.

The interviews included video, audio and written accounts from the students' subjects. The interviewees signed release forms, allowing Kalbaugh to send the

project to the U.S. Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

The accounts are being processed and will soon be a permanent part of the U.S. Library of Congress.

According to its Web site, the Veterans History Project is designed to preserve the extraordinary first-hand wartime stories of ordinary people. It features veterans from World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

IHM eighth-grader competes in state contest

HIGH POINT — Jackson Sams, an eighth-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, qualified to compete in the National Geographic Bee's state competition in Raleigh April 1.

Winner of the school's Bee several weeks prior, Jackson then took the written test to qualify to compete at the state level. State winners then go to the national Bee in Washington, D.C. for a chance to win a \$25,000 college scholarship from National Geographic.

Jackson is the second student of teacher Sharon Kalbaugh in four years to have advanced to the state level.

Student artwork exhibited in gallery

HIGH POINT — The artwork of 10 students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School was selected to be on display at the Theatre Art Galleries in High Point in April.

The exhibit, located in the Kaleidoscope Youth Gallery, was part of the gallery's 29th Annual Student Show, which is themed "What Lies

Beneath: Symbolism."

The school's art teacher, Ann Jones, entered the students' pieces into the show.

Eighth-grader Emily Sickelbaugh won third-place honors for her butterfly mask. Other students who had items on display were sixth-grader Rebecca Goldston; seventh-graders Jennifer Lindh, Gabrielle Amundson, Josh Rathburn, Anna Tillery, Kiersten Anderson and Connor Gehling; and eighth-graders Christa Dolan and Elizabeth Sheffield.

Matthew-Morgan classroom receives continued support

CHARLOTTE — The Foundation for the Education of Children with Down Syndrome has made a \$10,000 donation toward the Matthew-Morgan Pilot Classroom at St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

The program, originally funded by the foundation, was established at St. Patrick School in 2002 for students with Down syndrome, a congenital condition characterized by moderate to severe mental retardation and other symptoms.

The program teaches students basic academic curriculum as well as life skills based on their levels of ability. Students join the St. Patrick School students in the lunchroom, on the playground, at Mass and in some classes.

"The Board of Directors of the Foundation ... are extremely pleased with the program and the effect that it has had on the students with Down syndrome, as well as the other students in the school," said J. Riley Grier, president of the foundation, in a January letter to Linda Cherry, superintendent of Catholic schools.

Grier expressed his gratitude to Principal Angela Montague for "her work in making this classroom such an integral part of her school."

"Including these kids in the day-to-day activities helps make them feel part of the school and creates an environment of acceptance for these children," said Grier.

"Catholic education should be for all children, incorporating all types of students into mainstream society," said Montague in a 2003 interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

"They are part of our community, and we would be lost without them," she said.



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Culture Watch

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Catholic group ends eBay boycott after auction site changes policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic groups called off their boycott of eBay once they received word from the Internet auction site May 1 that the site would no longer allow consecrated hosts or other sacred objects to be sold.

"We're glad that the concerted efforts of so many individuals and groups, including the league, have led to this positive change in eBay's policies," said Phil Horgan, president of the Catholic Civil Rights League in Ottawa.

Catholics had been urged to boycott the site after it allowed an Iowa man to try to sell shortly after Pope John Paul II's death a Communion host reportedly consecrated by him.

The host was later withdrawn by the seller, no money exchanged hands and the host was properly disposed of according to church law. But groups urging the boycott insisted that eBay should never have allowed the auction of an item that is sacred to Catholics.

A Web site devoted to the initial boycott, www.boycottebay.org, was updated May 3 telling Catholics the boycott was over. The updated site credited eBay for changing its policies and officially stating "that, under its existing policies, sales of the Eucharist, as well as other unspecified holy objects of Catholics and other religious faiths, will not be permitted."

The Web site also posted a letter from eBay's community watch team sent May 1 to those who protested the

auction of the consecrated host.

The letter stated that the auction site strives to "respect the diverse perspectives of our sellers" and has policies in place to remove listings for illegal items as well as highly offensive listings that promote hate or intolerance.

"We understand that the listing of the Eucharist was highly upsetting to Catholic members of the eBay community and Catholics globally," the letter said.

It added that once the auction item came to the attention of eBay officials they sought advice from Catholics and members of other religions about items that "might also be highly sacred and inappropriate for sale."

"As a result of this dialogue," the letter continued, "we have concluded that sales of the Eucharist and similar highly sacred items are not appropriate on eBay. We have, therefore, broadened our policies and will remove those types of listings should they appear on the site in the future."

The letter encouraged people to notify eBay of violations to the updated policy or to directly communicate with the seller of an item if they find its sale offensive.

The Catholic Civil Rights League also urged its members to make sure eBay sticks to its new policy.

"Because most of the posting processes are automated, we join eBay in encouraging all users to be vigilant about enforcing it," the group said.

Volkswagen said to have been owned by Pope Benedict XVI sold on eBay

BERLIN (CNS) — A Canadian-based online casino, known for making some unusual and expensive purchases of religious-themed items, can now add to its list of acquisitions a 1999 Volkswagen Golf said to have been once owned by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Golden Palace Casino, based in Kahnawake, Quebec, placed the winning bid for the gray hatchback May 6 on eBay for 188,938 euros, the equivalent of US\$244,800.

According to a report by the British news agency, Reuters, the seller of the car was a 21-year-old German man, Benjamin Halbe of Olpe. He purchased the car locally for the equivalent of about US\$13,000 in January.

The news story said that at the time he did not realize it belonged to then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger until he later looked at the car's registration documents.

In his listing on the eBay site, Halbe included a photo of the car's registration that showed the automobile was registered to Joseph Ratzinger in 1999, although it is not clear if the current pope even has a driver's license. The Associated Press reported May 6 that it could not be verified if the vehicle had at one

time belonged to the pope.

The car was to be picked up by the winning bidder, but some German newspapers reported that Halbe did not want to release the car to the online casino. He cited problems with the final stage of bidding; some people claimed they were not able to put in their bids on the eBay site.

But Richard Rowe, CEO of the Golden Palace, said he is the proud owner of the vehicle. In a statement on the casino's Web site, he said he was "delighted to own this holy vehicle."

"We have amassed a collection of what many consider to be holy artifacts," he said, adding that it "seems only natural to get a blessed vehicle to carry these items. We are planning to showcase our acquisitions by bringing them on tour and allowing people to enjoy the experience of sitting in the divine car, in an effort to raise as much money for charity as possible."

Other items the Golden Palace Casino has purchased online include: a grilled cheese sandwich that supposedly bears the image of Mary, for \$28,000; a tortilla chip resembling a pope's miter, for \$1,029; and a charred image of Christ on a frying pan, for about \$80.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 22, 2005

May 22, The Most Holy Trinity

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
(Psalm) Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55
- 2) 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- 3) Gospel: John 3:16-18

God found in unexpected places, moments

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The parking lot fills to capacity. Families tumble out of SUVs with seemingly enough paraphernalia to sustain themselves for days. Across the fields, the sounds of children's laughter and the chaos of joyful screams fill the air.

Then the unmistakable crack of a baseball bat colliding with a well-thrown ball ignites a crowd somewhere in the distance. In an adjacent field a man shouts, "Baseball ready!" to a team of grade-school boys.

My husband and I are devoted fans. "Baseball ready!" has become our Saturday mantra. One of the players is our grandson; our son is the head coach. Veterans of freezing drizzle and the relentless Texas sun, the coaches spend hours of their precious time teaching the boys not only the fundamentals of baseball, but the rules of life as well.

Besides the coach-player relationship, the fan-team relationship has become extraordinary over the years. We are a truly diverse group with a common goal to love and support the boys and

their coaches.

Friendships have emerged among us. A baby has celebrated her first birthday. A dad served in Iraq and returned. All the while we try our best to teach by example how to behave in the euphoria of winning and in the cold silence of defeat.

On a baseball Saturday this past April, only one word would describe the weather: "glorious." Balmy 70s, blue sky, whipped-cream clouds, a light breeze and the familiar cry, "Baseball ready!"

Throughout the bleachers, "It's the perfect day for baseball!" is part of everyone's conversation. Soon we'll swelter in summer's blazing heat, but today — today, thank you, Lord. Today is just right!

In this Trinity Sunday's readings we hear about the courageous encounter between God and Moses on Sinai, the assurance from Jesus in John's Gospel that he is the Son of God and St. Paul's Trinitarian blessing of the church at Corinth at the close of his second letter. Our readings span thousands of years, but the message is clear: God loves us and wishes all of us to live in the peace that is Shalom.

Our vocabularies always will pale in trying to describe the attributes of God, but we may catch glimpses of God in the most unexpected places.

Question:

Describe a time when you felt the omnipresence of God's love.

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15-21

Sunday (Pentecost), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday**, Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday**, Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (St. John I)**, Sirach 4:11-19, Mark 9:38-40; **Thursday**, Sirach 5:1-8, Mark 9:41-50; **Friday (St. Bernardine of Siena)**, Sirach 6:5-17, Mark 10:1-12; **Saturday (St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions)**, Sirach 17:1-15, Mark 10:13-18.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 22-28

Sunday (The Most Holy Trinity), Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; **Monday**, Sirach 17:20-24, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday**, Sirach 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31; **Wednesday (St. Bede, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi)**, Sirach 36:1, 4-5, 10-17, Mark 10:32-45; **Thursday (St. Philip Neri)**, Sirach 42:15-25, Mark 10:46-52; **Friday (St. Augustine of Canterbury)**, Sirach 44:1, 9-13, Mark 11:11-26; **Saturday**, Sirach 51:12-20, Mark 11:27-33.

WRITERS SOUGHT

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST!

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



HOLY CRUSADER



CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

Orlando Bloom stars in a scene from the movie "Kingdom of Heaven."

'Kingdom of Heaven' is bloody but engaging film

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Kingdom of Heaven" is a sweeping, if bloody and somewhat revisionist, historical drama set in the time of the Crusades about a disillusioned blacksmith (Orlando Bloom) elevated to knighthood who journeys to Jerusalem in search of redemption and becomes embroiled in the power struggle between the tolerance-advocating Latin king and a war-mongering would-be usurper, who threatens to disrupt the tenuous truce between the Christian and Muslim forces.

Spectacularly directed by Ridley Scott and full of grand-scale battle scenes and period detail, the epic film takes license with the facts, but overall

portrays both sides as a mix of vice and virtue (though in its skewed telling of the events Christians come off as the prime villains) and imparts a timely message of peaceful coexistence, as well as a strong condemnation of violence, ideological hatred and war.

Recurring intense battlefield violence and associated gore, including decapitations, hacked limbs and flaming bodies, as well as a brief adulterous sexual encounter.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Singer-songwriter is anything but an 'average' college student

Song about Terri Schiavo to be performed for Schindler family

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Her life is just like any other college student's.

Except for the press conference in Washington in April. And the appearance in Kansas City, Mo., in May. And the concert at World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany, coming up this summer.

"I lead a pretty average life," said singer-songwriter Kara Klein, who was wrapping up her freshman year as a philosophy and voice major at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

"I've traveled more than I'd like to this year," she added. "I've had so many blessings, but I've learned that with blessings there are also sacrifices."

One of Klein's blessings is a close family in Mandeville, La., where she belongs to Mary Queen of Peace Church. Another is a beautiful voice that first led her to a part in a local community theater production of "Babes in Toyland" at age 8, followed by "many more musicals" and more choirs than she can count.

But the 19-year-old is not just another pretty voice. She writes her own songs, including the 10 on her first CD, "A Touch of Your Grace."

She's also written "tons and tons of songs" for a second CD but has not been able to find the time to record them.

Her latest recording, "Still Beautiful — Terri's Song," is dedicated to Terri Schindler Schiavo, the severely brain-damaged Florida woman who died this spring, 13 days after her nutrition and hydration were withdrawn with a court order obtained by her husband and fought by her parents.

"Do you think I'm beautiful now?" the song asks. "Even when you're carrying me because I am too weak to walk./And I have lost control of everything somehow./Do you think I'm beautiful now?"

Klein sang that song in late April at a reception for members of Congress and for women from all over the country who had come to Washington for the "Real Women's Voices" lobbying event. She will sing it for members of the Schindler family in June at the National Right to Life Committee convention in Minneapolis.

"That's going to be really difficult," Klein said of her appearance before the Schindlers. "But I'll be completely depending on God's grace. I'm always very dependent on him."

Klein said she was not thinking of Terri Schiavo when the words to "Beautiful Still" first came to her.

"Sometimes I don't understand why I write them," she said. "I was in a place where I was struggling, feeling very broken, something we all feel." Those feelings made her think of asking God, "Do you still see me as beautiful?"

But when her mother first heard the song, she immediately said, "That's Terri's song," Klein recalled.

It was from her mother, too, that Klein got her strong pro-life views. The singer is dedicating \$1 from the sale of



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARRING

Kara Klein, a 19-year-old singer-songwriter, poses for a photo in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

each "A Touch of Your Grace" CD to the Susan B. Anthony List, which helps fund the legislative and congressional campaigns of pro-life women candidates.

Profits from "Beautiful Still" are going to the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation, which works to protect people disabled like Schiavo from euthanasia.

Although she had always been pro-life, Klein said her "eyes were opened to the culture of death" when she had an opportunity to attend a special session of the United Nations on children's rights in New York in 2002, during her sophomore year at St. Scholastica Academy in Covington, La.

The session's draft document, "A World Fit for Children," called for allowing abortions for girls as young as 9 without parental consent, rewarding teens for condom use and establishing five genders — homosexual male, heterosexual male, homosexual female, heterosexual female and transgender — instead of the usual male and female.

Those provisions were removed from the document before its final passage, she said.

Klein and her friends who attended the session "could not help but wonder how world leaders could hope to help the young women of the world by indoctrinating them into a mentality of violence and death," she said.

"It's frightening to consider where our world will be in the near future if we do not put a stop to this culture of violence and death," she added.

After some scheduled appearances this spring and summer and a trip to Germany for World Youth Day, Klein is not sure what life will bring.

She has decided to take a year off from school to record her second CD. She is considering continuing her education with distance-learning classes.

And then? "I'll be speaking and singing," she said, "and seeing where that leads."

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Exploring Catholic social teaching



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Barney Offerman (second from left) of St. Peter Church in Charlotte makes a point during "Catholic Social Teachings: Global Issues; Local Implications" at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley April 30. Augustinian Father John Deegan (right), director of Justice and Peace Office of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in Villanova, Penn., presented the program. Father Deegan reviewed Catholic social teaching and spoke on such issues as the economy, the environment and the just war theory.

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FROM THE COVER

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Principal Search Committee
St. Anne Catholic School
1698 Bird Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Firefighter's words: miraculous?

MIRACLE, from page 1

were completely surprised. They included Msgr. William Gallagher, a priest in the Buffalo Diocese who ministers at the Father Baker Manor nursing home in Orchard Park, where Herbert has been a patient for nearly a decade.

In 1995, Herbert suffered a head injury and was deprived of oxygen for six minutes after a burning apartment building's roof collapsed on him. He remained in a coma for two and a half months.

In 1996, he regained consciousness but had speech and vision problems and

could not eat or walk without help.

Msgr. Gallagher says Mass once a month at the nursing home. He was at the facility April 29 and saw Herbert, who is Catholic, at the Mass the priest celebrated in the nursing home's chapel.

Herbert did not receive the Eucharist, but the priest gave him a blessing.

The next day, Herbert, who had not communicated for nearly 10 years and had been described by doctors as "minimally conscious," startled everyone by talking for about 16 hours.

The priest heard about it from parishioners who volunteer at the nursing home. Later that day, word spread to the fire department where Herbert had previously worked and then to local and national media.

"Everyone was shocked," said Msgr. Gallagher May 6, noting that most people did not have much hope for Herbert's recovery. "Maybe it's a miracle with a little 'm,' but it's definitely miraculous."

He said he felt more confident in speaking about the possibility of something miraculous happening after hearing some of the doctors discuss Herbert's condition in a May 4 press conference.

One doctor described Herbert's sudden burst of talking April 30 as rare, but something that medical science knows can occur. Another said it was a combination of the medications Herbert was taking and God's will.

A third doctor called it a miracle.

Since the sudden burst of conversation, during which Herbert caught up on events with his wife and four sons, the 44-year-old has not been as animated, but doctors continued to monitor him closely and people in Buffalo were praying for his full recovery.

Immediately after Herbert's day of talking, some speculated that his recovery could be linked to the intercession of Msgr. Nelson Baker, for whom the nursing home is named and a candidate for sainthood. Msgr. Baker, most often referred to as Father Baker, started and expanded many programs to help children, the poor and the sick in the Buffalo area.

Msgr. Robert Wurtz, pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church in Lackawanna, and promoter of Msgr. Baker's sainthood cause, is approaching the case with caution.

The priest told *The Buffalo News* that Herbert's dramatic improvement is "the kind of thing we're looking for" to move the cause forward, but he also added that proof is needed that the recovery was "solely through divine intervention on Father Baker's part."

Msgr. Wurtz said he was eager to talk to the firefighter's family. He also stressed that criteria are strict for a miracle to be attributed to someone's intercession.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Herbert had at least one photo of Father Baker or artifact of the priest in his room. Msgr. Gallagher said pictures of Father Baker are everywhere in the nursing home.

The priest noted that his parishioners, many of whom have "wheeled Donnie to Mass" at the nursing home, were thrilled with his day of talking and were praying for more signs of his recovery. They also hope Father Baker had something to do with it.

"The people of Buffalo are looking for a saint," Msgr. Gallagher said.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Giving thanks through prayer

Over the course of the last month, as Pope John Paul II died and was buried, as the cardinal electors gathered to choose a successor and as Pope Benedict XVI was introduced to the world, Catholics have been called upon to offer special prayers.

As I traveled around the Diocese of Charlotte after the selection of Pope Benedict, many news reporters have asked me the same question: "Why are you gathering to pray? After all, the pope has been elected; what is done is done."

It is a good question. This special prayer journey for the Catholic Church actually began on April 2 when our beloved Holy Father, John Paul, a true servant of God until the very end, passed from this life. There was an emptiness in the days after John Paul's death. The visible center of our unity, the father of the family of the Church, had been taken away from us.

We gathered in large numbers to pray for the repose of John Paul's soul. The world watched in awe as millions of pilgrims flocked to Rome to pay a final tribute to this humble and holy man.

Then we gathered as a diocesan family to pray for the cardinal electors as they met to choose a successor to St. Peter. Our hearts yearned for a new shepherd. As I was preparing to celebrate a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Charlotte on the second day of the conclave, I learned that the Holy Spirit's guidance to the electors had come quickly. We had a new pope!

The news was met with a spontaneous outbreak of applause in the cathedral. The same joy was evident on the faces of the thousands who gathered in St. Peter's Square to greet Benedict XVI.

And finally, in the days after the selection of Pope Benedict we gathered to give thanks at special diocesan Masses in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Asheville. Whenever we ask for a gift from God, we always return to give thanks.

We pray also for the new pope, so that he may have the strength to carry on the responsibilities as the vicar of Christ on Earth. We pray for his health and we pray that God will grant him wisdom as he guides the flock of 1.1 billion Catholics all over the world.

I was struck by the words of the Holy Father as he delivered his homily at the Mass of investiture. With the eyes of the world on him as the symbols of the office of pope were conferred, he asked us to pray for him, not once, but three times.

He said, "Pray for me so that I will learn to love the Lord more and more. Pray for me so that I will learn to love the flock more and more." And finally he said, "Pray for me, that I may not flee for

From the Bishop

BISHOP
PETER J. JUGIS

BISHOP OF
CHARLOTTE



fear of the wolves."

Our new Holy Father is fully aware of the evil and the dangers that lurk in our world. He describes those dangers as deserts:

"There is the desert of poverty, the desert of hunger and thirst, the desert of abandonment, of loneliness, of destroyed love. There is the desert of God's darkness, the emptiness of souls no longer aware of their dignity or the goal of human life. The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast."

It is wonderful to know that Pope Benedict XVI began his ministry as our shepherd by reminding us that prayer can turn those evil deserts into an oasis of God's love.

And so we have prayed in sadness, in hope and in thanks. Now let us pray in joy for our new pope, Benedict XVI, who describes himself as, "a simple, humble worker in the Lord's vineyard."

Let us go forward with him, confident in the risen Lord's help.

Focusing on agendas in the church

Emotions were mixed when Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope. Some rejoiced, while others did not.

The enchanted see him as a seasoned churchman needed to restore order in a church that is out of order. They believe he will come down hard on the opposition.

The disenchanted feel he will foster a church that is out of touch. They fear most that he will be true to labels some have given him such as "The Enforcer" and will lack compassion.

Conservatives and liberals definitely have opposing agendas. I often wonder if they consider ways that a pope's pressing concerns may take priority over theirs.

Europe, once predominantly Catholic, has become very secular. Not only this, its birthrates are falling, and suddenly the continent is growing fearful that it could end up predominantly Muslim.

Pope Benedict XVI faces the challenge of reaching the youth of Europe who are the promise of its future Catholicity, while at the same time seeking friendship, understanding and cooperation with Muslims. This presents a dilemma: How do you energetically evangelize Europe while at the same time embracing Muslims?

The new pope's agenda must extend to Africa where millions are dying of AIDS and where government corruption is the scourge of the land. His agenda must extend also to Latin America, which is losing its Catholicity.

Terrorism and the threat of a nuclear holocaust also must assume important places on Pope Benedict's

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



agenda. Popes and saints in the past have been able to secure peace. But how can a contemporary pope do this in an age when war has taken on totally new forms and become demonic?

Catholic tradition always aims to communicate God's wisdom. But how does a pope apply this wisdom in ways that motivate nations to preserve the world's resources for generations to come? What wisdom is needed to move our age of surging scientific discovery beyond "playing God" to revealing God's majesty?

These priorities — global priorities — call for Pope Benedict's attention. But are they his priorities alone or are they ours also? There is great focus right now on the new pope's agenda. But I believe this also is a time for all Catholics to focus on what their agenda is for the church.

No doubt a more horizontal and less vertical church in which people have more to say needs to be addressed. But before this happens, both the right and the left in the church need to examine their consciences.

I urge them to meditate on the open arms of Christ on the cross as the perfect expression of worship precisely because they express complete devotion to us; because they are a gesture of embrace, of full and undivided brotherliness and sisterliness.

Christ is all "for" us. This gives us a first principle of Christianity. If we are to be truly church, we must be like him — our agendas must be based on this first principle of Christianity, this embrace, this being "for" each other as true brothers and sisters.

Waiting for the next 'Star Wars'

Epic story has lasting message

I have been a "Star Wars" fan since I was tiny, memorizing every line from all three of the first three movies.

"Return of the Jedi" was my favorite as a child because I loved it when Luke finally got all of his powers. He could flip, throw things with his mind and wield a pretty good lightsaber. Cool. I thought, "It all ended up perfect."

As I grew older, "The Empire Strikes Back" became my favorite. It rose to the top of the Star Wars Trilogy because it didn't have a happy ending. I enjoyed the reality of it — that the good don't always win.

My mom says I cried at the end because it didn't end perfectly. Now I wonder how it would feel if I saw it for the first time without knowing the outcome of "Jedi," knowing that good did finally come back to conquer evil.

I think knowing that it all worked out well, with the emperor being tossed by a

protective father (Darth Vader) into the heart of the new Death Star, afforded me the opportunity to love "Empire."

I think if I could see "Empire" again without knowing the outcome of the entire series, I would feel angered, even scared that things might not work out for the good guys, that the evil emperor would control the fate of all in the universe.

Knowing that this isn't the case, however, I can love "Empire." I can relish its bitter ending, knowing that some day that protective father would save the son's life.

I remember asking my parents after Darth said, "I am your father," if it was true. They told me that they didn't know.

"It can't be true," I told them. Darth is too bad to be Luke's father.

When young, that truth was too much for me to handle. Too many questions for a small mind to comprehend.

We are afforded the same opportu-

Coming of Age

KASE JOHNSTUN
CNS COLUMNIST



nity to enjoy our lives even though they aren't perfect. We are given the gift to look at the bad things that happen to us and say, "I learned something from that."

We, luckily, can take the good out of the bad and move on with our lives, and even enjoy the good more because of the bad — because of what we've learned and risen above.

We can do all of this because we already know the end of the story. Our protective Father will be there for us in the end, and it will all be good when we leave this part of the series.

The only difference is that our protective Father always has been there, is there now and will be there for us, promising us a happy ending.

Grave statistics

Studies show harmful effects after abortion

I was both pleased and disappointed with the guest column by Maureen Bailey of the U.S. bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat ("Shrouded in secrecy," April 29). I'm pleased any time someone attempts to address the fact that abortion harms women, and pleased any time that Rachel's Vineyard, a program offered in our diocese, is mentioned as a resource for healing.

But I'm disappointed at Bailey's comment that "no large scientific study has been undertaken" regarding the psychological impact of abortion. That's incorrect.

Numerous studies in prestigious medical journals have highlighted both the physical and psychological harms of abortions. For example, a large study using public health data from Finland showed a 650 percent increase in suicide deaths in women during the first year after their abortion, compared to women who gave birth.

A similar study by Dr. David Reardon was undertaken using California Medicaid records for 173,279 women who had state-funded abortions or deliveries. Again, a large increase in the suicide rate was found in the women who aborted compared to those who delivered. The increased suicide rate persisted for the eight years of the study.

That is, among post-abortive women, even eight years after their abortions, this group continued to have a higher suicide rate, indicating that the effects of abortion appear to be relatively enduring over time.

These studies are just the tip of the iceberg, as many women don't actually kill themselves, but do have psychiatric illnesses related to the abortion; for example, they experience a rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) that is similar to that experienced by people living in combat zones.

Guest Column

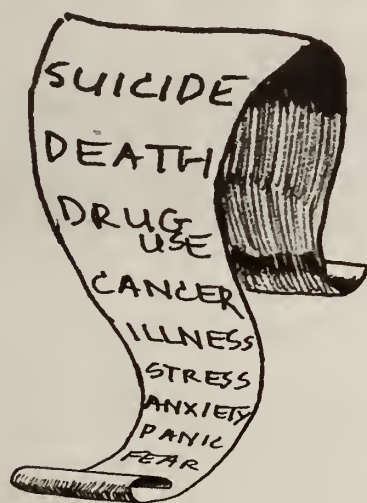
MARTHA W. SHUPING, M.D.
GUEST COLUMNIST



Besides PTSD, there are panic episodes, depression, anxiety disorders and a large increase in a substance abuse as a coping mechanism.

Sadly, many post-abortive women abuse alcohol and other drugs even during subsequent pregnancies, only one of several ways that the effects of abortion are carried into the next generation. Research also shows that there is an increase in domestic violence in post-abortive families and emotional and behavioral problems in the children.

There are also numerous physical effects of the abortion itself. More than 30 studies worldwide have shown a link between abortion and breast cancer.



Also, increased breast cancer has been observed in experiments done with rodents who were given surgical abortions.

The abortion/breast cancer link was mentioned in a highly regarded surgical textbook more than a decade ago, and the mechanism is so well understood that there shouldn't be any controversy about this issue. However, many physicians are ideologically committed to the myth that abortion has to be safe because women "need" it.

Additionally, physicians who have performed abortions or referred patients for abortions are at risk financially through breast cancer lawsuits as this link becomes established. More information can be found at www.abortionbreastcancer.com.

Most of the physical effects of abortion are less controversial than the breast cancer issue. The book, "Detrimental Effects of Abortion: An Annotated Bibliography with Commentary (3rd Edition)," edited by Thomas Strahan, lists 1,200 studies, each referenced with a short summary.

These studies include both harmful medical and psychological effects of abortion. More information and books can be found at www.afterabortion.org. The Web site is a rich source of current research and explanations of the research in easily understandable terms.

Those interested in more information are welcome to contact me regarding free teleconferences related to abortion, or just to consult informally by phone at (336) 659-1342 or e-mail mshuping01@sprynet.com. I also have a library of videos, books and other materials that can be loaned out.

Those interested in Rachel's Vineyard retreats, whether to volunteer or for your own healing, are also welcome to contact me, and I have a range of suggestions for parish presentations.

Martha Shuping, M.D., is a psychiatrist in private practice in Winston-Salem and serves as a volunteer for Rachel's Vineyard retreats for healing after abortion, which are offered in partnership with the diocesan Respect Life Office.

Pope says God rises above chaos as 'supreme judge' of world

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The world is not in the hands of dark forces, chance or human folly — God rises above the chaos as "supreme judge" of what happens in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said in his weekly general audience.

"God is not indifferent to human events, but he penetrates through them, instilling his 'ways,' that is, his projects and his operative works" to guide history "to the dawn of the new heaven and the new earth," he said in his May 11 catechesis.

From the steps in front of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope continued a series of reflections on the psalms and canticles that his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, had begun before his death.

Focusing on Chapter 15 of the Book of Revelation, Pope Benedict said that in this canticle "God invites 'all the people on earth as well as every one of us to conversion.'"

The world's "nations must learn to 'read' God's message in history" and to realize that "humanity's adventure is not obscure and meaningless," he said.

The pope said that by comprehending the immense power of God working within human history the faithful "open themselves up to fear of the Lord's name."

"Fear," in biblical terms, the pope said, does not mean dread or fright, but rather signals "the recognition of the mystery of divine transcendence."

"The Lord, your God, asks of you to fear him and love him with all your heart and soul," he said.

The fear or awe of God renders the faithful unafraid of "the evil that rages throughout history" and allows one to "vigorously resume the road of life," he said.

As he did in his last general audience, the pope departed from his written text to further explain this point to the 17,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"It's thanks to this fear of God that we are not frightened of the world and all its problems; we are not afraid of men because God is more powerful," he said.

"Be strong and fear not," the pope said, because by understanding God's glory, feeble hands will be strengthened and weak knees will be made firm.

After greeting pilgrims in seven different languages and leading the singing of the Lord's Prayer in Latin, the pope devoted more than 30 minutes to meeting with sick and handicapped children and adults, newlyweds and other audience members.

Ashes of the deceased

Q. In the eyes of the Catholic Church, is it permissible to keep ashes of the deceased in the house? One priest says it is all right, but others have said it is not. (New Jersey)

A. Two documents, "The Order of Christian Funerals" and "Reflections on the Body, Cremation and Catholic Funeral Rites" published by the U.S. bishops in 1997 explain the care we should have for the bodies of our dead. Both stress a preference for burial or entombment of the deceased, even after cremation.

The latter document expresses it very clearly: "The remains of cremated bodies should be treated with the same respect given to the corporal remains of a human body."

"This includes the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to

appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The cremated remains of a body should be entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium (a burial place reserved for ashes after cremation); they may also be buried in a common grave in a cemetery."

The practice of scattering remains on the sea or on the ground, it continues, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend, are not proper.

The same applies to the extraordinary practice of dividing the cremated remains so they may be placed in brooches, or necklaces, or other jewelry. This, too, overlooks some important truths about our care for loved ones who die.

Anthropologists often note that one way we learn the quality of a culture's civilization is how they treat their dead. We need to be sure that how we respect

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



our dead faithfully reflects our Christian understanding of the meaning of human life and death, and our faith in the resurrection.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about cremation and other funeral customs is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.



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Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass, Part
17; Pope shortens Synod of
Bishops on Eucharist

|PAGE 7

MAY 20, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 Nº 32

Speeding toward sainthood

**POPE SAYS HE
WILL ALLOW
JPII'S SAINTHOOD
CAUSE TO OPEN
IMMEDIATELY**

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Pope Benedict XVI announced May 13 that he was allowing the immediate opening of Pope John Paul II's cause for sainthood, setting aside the five-year waiting period called for by church law.

Pope Benedict made the announcement at the end of a speech to the priests of the Diocese of Rome gathered for a meeting and a dialogue with him at the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Finishing his prepared speech to the priests, the pope

See SAINT, page 5

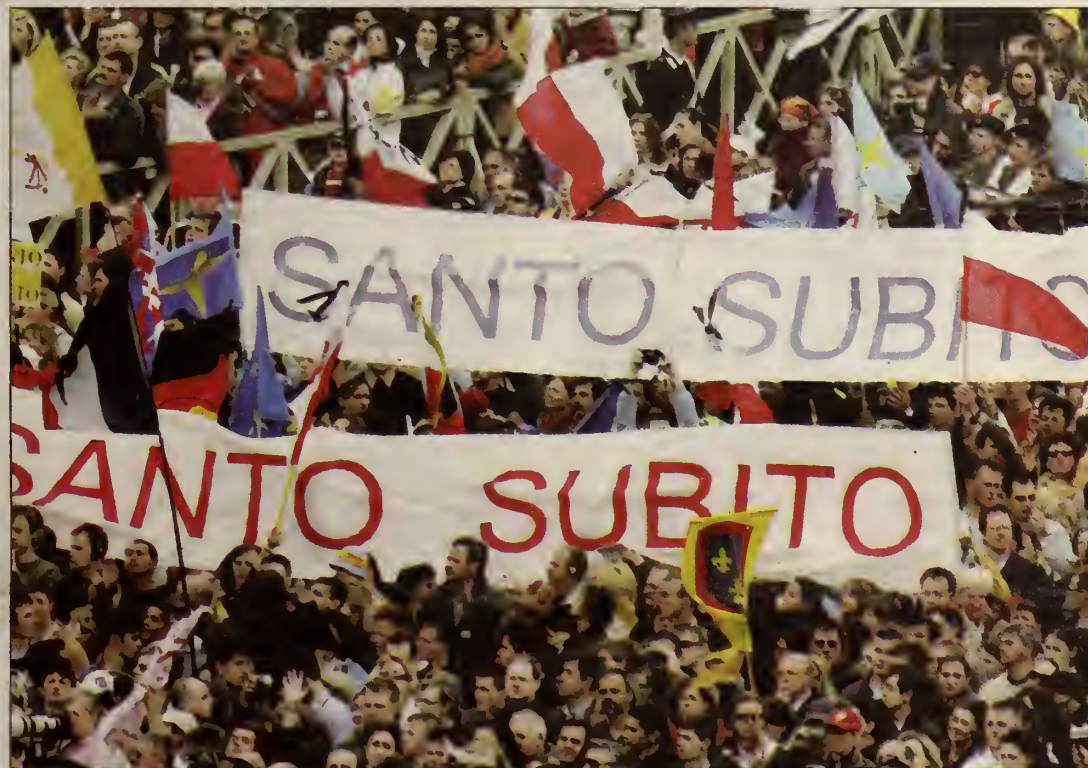
Ethicists: Schiavo case should lead to family talks, not just wills

**MEDIA CAUSED CONFUSION
IN CASE, SAYS EXPERT**

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The death of Terri Schindler Schiavo in March should lead Americans not just to write living wills, but to talk with relatives and friends about their end-of-life wishes, two ethicists said May 13 at the Na-

See SCHIAVO, page 12



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pilgrims hold a banner that translates as "sainthood immediately" during the funeral Mass for Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 8. Thousands of the faithful began chanting the pope's name and calling for his immediate canonization. Pope Benedict XVI announced May 13 that he was waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul.

UNMASKING HISTORY

Art students inspired by Mexican masks

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — There's no hiding the students' creativity as they work on making masks at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem.

Creating the masks has been a special project for the eighth-grade art class, and the students are hardly without in-

spiration: lining a classroom wall is a 31-piece collection of Mexican masks donated to the school last fall.

"The students have been looking at the masks since they were put up," said Stephanie Iauco, art teacher. "We talked about how masks can represent different concepts and hu-

See MASKS, page 8



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem stand amid some of the masks made in their art class. Pictured are (from left) Adam Morgan, Julia Ross, Chas Kissick and Jessica Clinch.

A STRUGGLE TO BE FREE

Sudanese offer stories of hope, life, faith

BY DEACON GREG
LAFRENIERE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TURALEI, Sudan — During informal conversations, many Sudanese reveal how deeply a two decades-long civil war has touched them.

Lino Deng Aller, who said he is about 75 years old, is a member of the Dinka tribe and has lived much of his life in and around Mayen Abun. He explained how he escaped bombings and troops from the North by living in the bush and forest.

The holes in the corrugated tin roof of the village church were caused by gunships and shrapnel, he said. Some damage was caused by soldiers, who shot through the roofs, he added.

See SUDAN, page 13

Culture Watch

Panelists discuss late pope's last book

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Perspectives

Memorial Day remembrance; serving the homebound

|PAGES 14-15

Parish Profile

St. John Neumann Church serves growing community

|PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

STRIDING FORWARD



CNS PHOTO BY JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

John Foppe, who was born without arms, signs a book with his foot as his wife, Christine Fulbright-Foppe, looks on following a speech at Denver's Hyatt Regency Tech Center April 29. More than 500 people turned out to hear Foppe's message of faith, hope and love in overcoming his disabilities.

Speaker born without arms talks about challenges he has overcome

DENVER (CNS) — Born without arms, John Foppe knows a lot about challenges — and about transcending them.

More than 500 people turned out at an April 29 luncheon to hear his message of faith, hope and love as he described how he overcame his disabilities to find personal fulfillment and professional success as a motivational speaker.

The 35-year-old Foppe, who uses his feet as his hands, calls his physical disability a "condition."

"A condition is basically anything that can get in your way of living a full, happy and productive life," Foppe said. "It's never about the condition itself. It's always about our response to it."

Foppe drives without any special equipment — he uses his feet but the vehicle must have automatic transmission and power steering. He has lived alone, has skied, has snorkled and has earned a master's degree.

He also has written a book, "What's Your Excuse? Making the Most of What You Have," now required reading for all freshmen at St. Louis University. Foppe earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree at the Jesuit-run university.

"Our only real handicaps in life are the mental and emotional ones that pre-

vent us from participating in life — pity, anger, fear, guilt, doubt, prejudice, ignorance," Foppe said. "Those are the real cripples in life, those thoughts we have that blind us to the possibilities in life."

He said that despite being raised in a loving Catholic family of eight boys and being educated in the local Catholic school he had developed a "victim mentality" by the time he was 10.

But his mother ended that with "tough love." She forbade his siblings from helping him with daily tasks. The first morning that Foppe had to dress himself became a turning point.

He embarked on a journey to discover what he really can and cannot do that continues to this day, Foppe said. He credits his family's sacrificial love and the acceptance and encouragement he received at his Catholic grade school with helping him along that path.

After becoming a successful speaker several years ago, Foppe achieved something else that as a child he believed was impossible. He fell in love and married.

Today, Foppe is grateful for — even proud of — his condition.

"There was a time in my life when the condition had me," he said. "But no longer. I have a condition. What's yours?"

Poll finds majority of Americans oppose embryonic stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A majority of Americans oppose federal funding of stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos, according to a new poll commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

For the government to promote the destruction of human life "when a clear majority of the taxpayers ... reject this approach would be especially irresponsible," said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the secretariat.

The poll was released May 16 as the U.S. House of Representatives was considering legislation that would allow federal funding of stem-cell research using embryos created but not used for in vitro fertilization. A vote was expected on the legislation before the summer recess.

In the survey conducted by International Communications Research, 1,010 Americans were told that "Congress is considering the question of federal funding for experiments using stem cells

from human embryos" and that embryos "would be destroyed in their first week of development to obtain these cells."

Asked whether they "support or oppose using your federal tax dollars for such experiments," 36 percent were in support, 52 percent were opposed, 10 percent didn't know and 2 percent refused to answer.

Next, respondents were told stem cells "can also be obtained from adults, from placentas left over from live births, and in other ways that do no harm to the donor" and that "scientists disagree on which source may end up being most successful in treating diseases."

Twenty-two percent said they supported "all methods, including those that require destroying human embryos, to see which will be most successful," while 60 percent said they favored "research using adult stem cells and other alternatives to see if there is no need to destroy human embryos for research."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965* is being considered for Fall 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for *caregivers of a family member with memory loss* meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday (TGIF)*, a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Sons of Erin Mecklenburg County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is seeking Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, community activities and social events. Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-mail ncaoh@aol.com for more information including meeting times and location.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery of-

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FROM THE VATICAN

Israeli official says pope plans to visit synagogue in Germany

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Israel's ambassador to the Vatican said Pope Benedict XVI told him he would visit a historic synagogue in Cologne, Germany, in August.

Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur told an Israeli newspaper the pope made the promise May 12 at the end of an audience with diplomats accredited to the Holy See. The Vatican press office had no comment on the ambassador's remarks.

Officials involved with planning Pope Benedict's August trip to Cologne for World Youth Day said May 16 they were still working with the Aug. 18-21 dates for the papal trip set when Pope John Paul II was still alive.

As of mid-May, they said, the only definite events on Pope Benedict's schedule in Germany involved World Youth Day, although the papal itinerary was still open to change.

If Pope Benedict does go to the Co-

logne synagogue, it would be only the second time in modern history that a pope visited a synagogue. Pope John Paul went to the Rome synagogue in 1986.

Pope honors 'heroic' German priest for saving Jews during WWII

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI praised the "heroic dedication" of a German-born priest who, during World War II, persuaded Nazi officials to spare the lives of Jews and political dissidents imprisoned in Rome.

Salvatorian Father Pancrazio Pfeiffer was general superior of the Society of the Divine Savior in Rome during the nine months Italy was occupied by German troops.

He became known as "the pope's messenger" as he took advantage of his

German origins to gather information and mediate on behalf of Pope Pius XII with German authorities to get immunity for religious institutes in Rome and win clemency for Jewish and political prisoners.

Because Father Pfeiffer developed numerous personal contacts with some members of the German forces, he was able to save the lives of hundreds of prisoners.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Father Pfeiffer's death May 12, the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, sent a telegram on behalf of Pope Benedict praising the priest's example.

The pope "wishes the shining example of this eager religious may encourage a renewed dedication to the building of a civilization of love," said the telegram.

REBUILDING AFTER TSUNAMIS REQUIRES COOPERATION, VATICAN OFFICIAL SAYS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Rebuilding Southeast Asia after December's devastating tsunamis will require continued cooperation between the area's Buddhists and Christians, said a top Vatican official.

The Dec. 26 disaster triggered "an outpouring of prayers, expressions of compassion and acts of generosity on a scale the world has rarely witnessed,"

said Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald, head of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue.

Many people of different religions came together to help the victims and map out the future of their communities, he said.

"The long-term requirements of reconstruction call, however, for a continuation of these interreligious expressions of solidarity," the archbishop said in an annual message to Buddhists.

The Vatican released the written message May 16 as Buddhists worldwide prepared for the May 22 feast of Vesakh, which commemorates the principal events in the life of Buddhism's founder, Siddhartha Gautama.

However, "this year's feast of Vesakh will find many families missing some of their members," the archbishop wrote. "I wish to assure them that their loved ones will not be forgotten but will be remembered in our prayers."

The tsunamis that swept through 11 countries in Asia and East Africa left more than 170,000 people dead, tens of thousands missing and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Some countries where Buddhists and Christians "live and work side by side" already have been cooperating in social development and peace, said the archbishop. But in the wake of the tsunamis, "nowhere has the need for collaboration been felt more keenly" than in these countries still struggling to rebuild.

ers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. Charlotte, NC 28226, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all women to a luncheon May 25 at Cardinal Country Club, 5700 Cardinal Way. Pre-lunch social will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12 p.m. The program will be presented by Sheila Duell, music director of Our Lady of Grace Church. For more information, please call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-266.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need or prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the Prayer Chain at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-264 for time and location.

WICKORY VICARIATE

WICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture*

Study. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

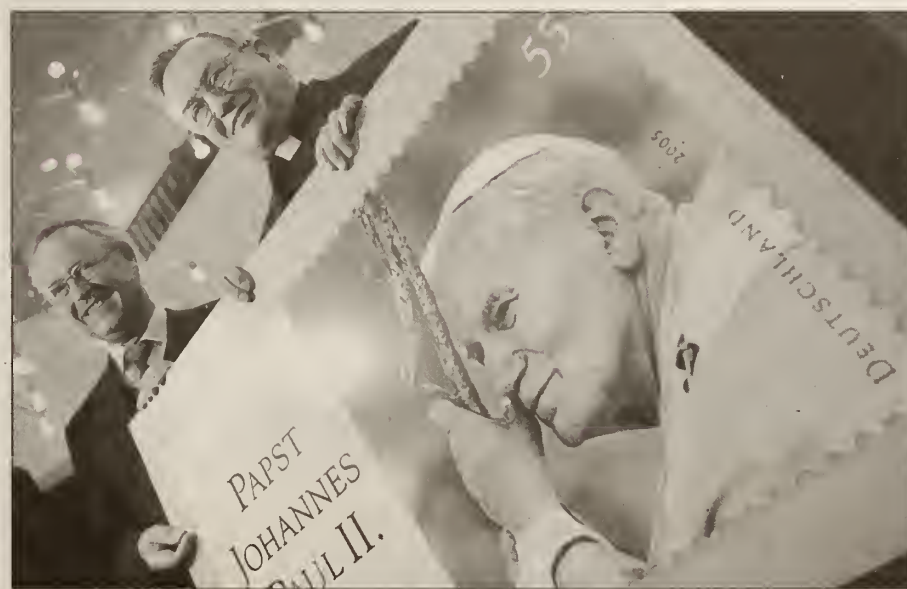
SALISBURY — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — Adult Education Classes are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles M. Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Papal postage



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

German Finance Minister Hans Eichel, left, and Cardinal Karl Lehmann of Mainz, Germany, present an oversized version of the new German postage stamp honoring the late Pope John Paul II during a ceremony in Mainz May 17.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 23 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

May 25 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mary Margaret Church, Swannanoa

May 26 — 7:30 p.m. Bishop McGuinness High School Baccalaureate Mass
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

May 28 — 11 a.m. Ordination to the Priesthood
Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte

May 29 — 5 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Infant Church, Reidsville

May 31 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Trinity Church, Taylorsville

June 1 — 7 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass,
Charlotte Catholic High School
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Pope names bishop of Honolulu, coadjutor for Fort Worth

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Father Clarence Silva, vicar general of the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., as bishop of Honolulu.

He also named Msgr. Kevin W. Vann, vicar for priests in the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., and pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Springfield, as coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.

Bishop-designate Silva succeeds Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo, who was

named bishop of Richmond, Va., in March 2004.

As coadjutor, Bishop-designate Vann will automatically become head of the Fort Worth Diocese upon the death or retirement of Bishop Joseph P. Delaney, 70, who has headed the diocese since 1981.

The appointments were announced May 17 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bonds of marriage

Advocates trained to assist in marriage nullity cases

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — The Diocese of Charlotte now has 35 advocates to assist people after divorce and in pursuing marriage nullity.

After attending monthly classes from September 2004 through May 2005, the participants had their last class at the Sisters of Mercy community in Belmont May 14. The new advocates took the tribunal oath, administered by Father John Putnam, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, and received certificates of completion.

The advocates, both deacons and laity from parishes around the diocese, were recommended by their pastors to participate in the program. Currently, 19 parishes have at least one tribunal advocate to assist the parish with its ministry to divorced and remarried people.

The advocates also may accompany divorced persons in their petitions to the diocesan tribunal for a declaration of marriage nullity.

"The program is geared to provide

more in-field contact with both the petitioners and the respondents," said Father Putnam. "The advocates will provide more personal contact and better instruction for the cases, which will benefit everyone all the way around."

To complete the program, advocates had to be thoroughly trained in a variety of topics, including the theology of marriage, human sciences, an overview of canon law, the canonical process, jurisprudence (dealing with the sanctity of marriage), impediments and canonical form.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis addressed the new advocates and spoke of the importance of canon law in advocacy, and the importance of the tribunal in the marriage nullity process.

"Through the process of the tribunal, the truth gradually emerges, and truth brings peace," said Bishop Jugis.

He instructed the advocates to perform their jobs with this message: "Receive them as Christ would meet them."

Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay contributed to this story.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacons and laity prepare for a lecture on canon law presented by Father John Putnam, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte, during the third week of the tribunal advocate program at the diocesan Pastoral Center Nov. 20, 2004.

Spreading the words



COURTESY PHO

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of Erin Division in Mecklenburg County made its third annual donation of books to Charlotte Catholic High School April 27. Picture are Tim Lawson, division president; Linda Meckes, Charlotte Catholic media specialist and John Eury, Hibernians book drive chairman. The category of this year's donation was "historical fiction" pertaining to Ireland, Irish Americans and the Catholic Church. The Hibernians also donated several books on Ireland and Irish saints to Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte April 29, with plans to donate more books next year. The Hibernians also made a recent contribution to support the diocesan seminary program.

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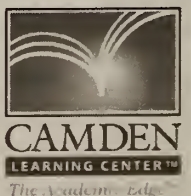
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FROM THE COVER

A decision 'to dispense from the five-year period of waiting ...'

Pope Benedict to push Pope John Paul's sainthood cause

SAINT, from page 1

aid he had a "joyful announcement" to make before he listened to the priests' comments and questions.

He then read, in Latin, a letter from Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, to Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome.

The letter said that at an April 28 audience, Pope Benedict, "considering the special circumstances that were explained," had decided "to dispense from the five-year period of waiting after the death of the servant of God, Pope John Paul II. ..."

Pope Benedict had to wait several minutes to finish the sentence — saying he was authorizing the immediate opening of the "cause for beatification and canonization" — because the priests broke into a loud and sustained standing ovation.

When they quieted, he said, "I see you all understand Latin very well." The comment brought more applause.

Complex procedure

Although the process for considering the holiness of Pope John Paul was to

begin immediately, it was not expected to conclude quickly.

Even after the normal five-year waiting period, causes for beatification and canonization require years, if not decades of studying the person's life, writings and relationships.

Those who knew the candidate are interviewed, and everything the person wrote must be scrutinized, a process that may take years, especially for a pope who was a prolific writer and speaker.

Two years after the 1997 death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope John Paul set aside the five-year waiting period for the opening of her cause, but she was not beatified until 2003.

Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari — who helped prepare her cause and is working on the cause of Pope Paul VI, who died in 1978 — said the process for a pope entails much more work.

"If this is done properly, it will take years," he said.

Pope John Paul beatified Popes Pius IX and John XXIII in 2000 — 122 and 37 years, respectively, after their deaths.

Just the interview with the pope's longtime personal secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, "will take days," Father Molinari said.

Then there are hundreds of other people, collaborators in the Roman Curia, longtime friends, bishops and priests,



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI meets with priests from the Diocese of Rome at the Basilica of St. John Lateran May 13. At the end of his speech, the pope announced he was waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II.

who also must be interviewed. His published work will be examined, but also letters, articles and poems held in archives in Poland and in other parts of the world, Father Molinari said.

The material must be compiled into a multivolume biography, then a "positio" or position paper on how the candidate heroically lived the Christian virtues is written.

Historians and theologians examine the material and make recommendations to members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, whose opinion is presented to the pope.

Verifying miracles

After the pope declares a candidate lived a life of heroic virtue, beatification still requires the verification of a miracle attributed to his intercession. Separate boards of theologians and of physicians are called to examine miracles alleged to have occurred after the candidate's death.

Father Molinari said that when Pope Benedict decided he would preside only

over canonization ceremonies — leaving Cardinal Saraiva Martins to celebrate beatification Masses — "he made it clear that he was not simplifying the process for beatification."

The Jesuit said he was not surprised the pope set aside the waiting period because of the widespread public acclaim of Pope John Paul's holiness and because of Pope Benedict's long relationship with him.

"He has been a faithful servant of John Paul II. He had a personal relationship with him and admiration for him," Father Molinari said.

During Pope John Paul's April 8 funeral, people held up signs and banners proclaiming the late pope a saint or calling for his canonization.

Cardinal Saraiva Martins said that while popular recognition of holiness was important, "canonical recognition" that someone is a saint requires the certainty that comes from a process developed and refined over the years.

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WRITERS SOUGHT

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The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte,
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.





COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grader Patricia Flanery crowns a statue of Mary during the crowning ceremony at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem May 13. Students Diego Ruiz and Patrick Cunningham served as Patricia's escorts during the crowning.

Devoted to Mary

In schools across the Diocese of Charlotte, students celebrate the month in which Mother's Day falls by honoring the mother of Jesus and participating in special services for the May crowning of the Virgin Mary.

Since the Council of Nicea in 787, the Catholic Church has often asserted that it is lawful to venerate images of Christ, Mary and the saints. The official liturgical "Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary," published in 1987 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, states coronation is one form of reverence frequently shown to images of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The popes not only endorsed this devout custom but also "on many occasions, either personally or through bishop-delegates, carried out the coronation of Marian images."

According to the document, the queen symbol was attributed to Mary because she is a perfect follower of Christ, who is the absolute "crown" of creation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grader Ben Messer assists second-grader Gabrielle Wylie as she places a crown on a statue of Mary during the May procession at St. Michael School in Gastonia May 16. The second-grade class, dressed in their first Communion attire, led the procession of students.



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Jessica Clinch places a ring of roses on the statue of Mary during the May Crowning at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem May 13. Father Thomas Kessler, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church, led the school body in reciting the Hail Mary in English, Spanish and French.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dressed in their first Communion outfits, second graders from St. Ann School Charlotte line the aisle of St. Ann Church and await May Queen Megan Shaul to crown a statue of Mary during the school's annual May procession May 12.

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The offertory procession and preparation

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 17

We have spent the past few weeks focusing on the significance of the offertory. We discovered that ultimately Christ is offering himself as both the priest and victim of the sacrifice of the Mass. And since we are members of his mystical body, the Catholic Church, we are also offering ourselves with him. "Through him, with him and in him," we offer ourselves as a gift to the Father.

But before the offerings and gifts are consecrated, they must be collected and presented for sacrifice. Let us return to the ritual of the liturgy of the Eucharist to see how this is accomplished.

At the beginning of the offertory, the altar is prepared. A square linen cloth, called the corporal, is unfolded in the center of the altar. The name "corporal" comes from the Latin corpus meaning "body," since this linen cloth is unfolded to catch particles of the host or drops of precious blood.

Along with the corporal, the chalice and communion chalices (if Communion is distributed under both species) are also brought to the altar with their purificators. The purificator is the linen cloth used to wipe and cleanse the chalices or other sacred vessels.

Finally, the Roman Missal is placed on the altar. The altar is now prepared to receive the gifts of bread and wine.

Previously we recalled that the first action of the offertory is the collection. Here, the faithful have the opportunity to support the various material needs of the church with their generous contributions.

We also recognized that these donations not only support the needs of the church, but also purchase the bread and wine that are also presented. Ultimately, the collection symbolically represents ourselves: our work is rewarded with money, from which a portion is given to God as a sacrificial offering.

It is important to note that the bread and wine, along with the collection, are brought forward in procession by members of the faithful. In the early church, the faithful would bring various gifts to be offered and presented at the offertory, including bread and wine, and other items for the poor, such as food, money

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



and clothing. Since we live in a society where money is the basic mode of exchange, we generally limit these offerings to the essential gifts of bread and wine, along with the collection.

Still, the ritual allows the presentation of other gifts that are "for the sake of charity toward the poor," but these must be placed away from the altar of sacrifice (*Redemptionis Sacramentum* 70).

The gifts of bread and wine are accepted by the priest or deacon and carried to the altar with the assistance of servers. During the offertory collection and procession, the Offertory Hymn or chant may be sung by the choir or the congregation, at least until the gifts have been placed on the altar.

As the gifts arrive at the altar, the celebrant raises the paten above the altar and offers a prayer in silence or, if there is no music, he may recite the prayer aloud. This prayer praises God for providing the elements for man to produce the bread used in the sacrifice.

After this prayer, the celebrant places the paten and any ciboria with hosts on the corporal. The chalice is prepared by the deacon or, if there is no deacon, by the celebrant. He adds a drop of water into the wine and recites a prayer in silence: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

It was common in ancient Roman society to drink wine mixed with water. This social practice entered the sacred rites of the Mass and assumed a spiritual significance: the wine represents the divinity of Christ and the water, his humanity.

The mixture of wine and water also represents the mystery of divinization: the water represents man elevated by God (as the fathers of the church taught, "God became man that man might become God").

After the chalice is prepared, it is elevated above the altar while another short prayer of praise is recited silently or aloud by the celebrant. He places the chalice and any Communion chalices on the corporal and he may cover the chalice with a stiff square cloth, called the "pall."

We will conclude our discussion of the offertory next week.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar at St. Dorothy Church in Lincoln.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

Pope confirms, shortens October Synod of Bishops on Eucharist

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Though Pope Benedict XVI confirmed October's world Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist, he decided to cut back on the length of the meeting by nearly a week.

The assembly of the world's bishops had been convoked by Pope John Paul II and scheduled to run Oct. 2-29 at the Vatican.

But after Pope John Paul's death April 2, the synod and other major Vatican initiatives were suspended.

The Vatican announced May 12 in a written statement that Pope Benedict reconvened the synod, but that it would be shortened by six days and run Oct. 2-23.

The reduced number of weeks dedicated to the synod suggests there would be changes made in how the synod was to be organized and scheduled.

"Perhaps the pope feels the work of the synod can get done in that amount of time instead of dragging on and on," said one Vatican official.

Though the official said he did not know the pope's reasons for the change, he noted that the usual length of the synods — about four weeks — kept bishops and archbishops away from their dioceses "a long time."

While no "big changes" were on the horizon, he said, some modifications would be expected given the reduced schedule.

Details of the changes were set to be published in the next few weeks with the release of the "instrumentum laboris" or working document on the synod.

The May 12 Vatican statement said Pope Benedict also reconfirmed the four cardinals and the archbishop chosen by Pope John Paul to lead the synod discussions.

The late pope had chosen Italian Cardinal Angelo Scola of Venice to be the synod's general rapporteur, or recording secretary, introducing and later summarizing the bishops' discussion.

Though Pope Benedict, as pontiff, is president of the synod, three cardinals will take turns presiding over the synod's daily sessions. They will be Cardinals Francis Arinze of Nigeria, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, Mexico, and Telesphore Toppo of Ranchi, India.

The synod's special secretary will remain French Archbishop Roland Minnerath of Dijon.

The theme of the synod, also chosen by Pope John Paul, is "The Eucharist, Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church."

The October gathering will be the 11th worldwide Synod of Bishops to be held since the Second Vatican Council. The last synod was held in 2001 and focused on the role and ministry of the bishop.

Pope asks new priests to lead people to Christ through Eucharist

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Maintaining a tradition of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI ordained 21 priests and urged them to lead people to Christ through the Eucharist.

By centering their mission on the Eucharist, the new priests can bring "the joy of Christ to those who suffer, those in doubt and even those who are reluctant," the pope said during the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica May 15.

The newly ordained, who completed their priestly studies in the Diocese of Rome, included 11 from Italy and 10 other countries in Europe, Africa and South America.

During his homily, the pope said the Eucharist should be the focus of the priest's spiritual life and the stimulus for their evangelizing work.

"Consider the possibility of worthily celebrating the Eucharist as the center of every day," he said. "Lead people again and again to this mystery. Help them, starting out from the Eucharist, to bring the peace of Christ into the world."

The pope framed his remarks about the priesthood in a description of the "mission of the Holy Spirit" and the church's duty to spread the Gospel. That is a task that has implications for human freedom, he said.

He said the Ten Commandments represent the foundation for the just ordering of freedom in human society, which cannot exist without reference to

God. The Holy Spirit, he said, helps people understand this perspective and helps the church spread its message.

"The church must continually become what it already is: It must open borders between peoples and break down the barriers between classes and races," he said. "In the church there are only the free brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ."

The pope asked the priests to remember that the strength given by the Holy Spirit is in a special way "the strength of forgiveness."

"Forgiveness comes from the cross; (Christ) transforms the world with the love he gives ... and only this grace can transform the world and build peace," he said.

He added that the forgiveness given in the sacrament of penance is one of the church's "precious treasures."

The pope, noting that it was Pentecost Sunday, made a point he has touched upon more than once in the first month of his papacy: the "indissoluble link that exists in the church between the Spirit and the institution." That link extends to the church's teaching authority, he said.

"Without the Holy Spirit, the church would be reduced to a merely human organization, weighed down by its own structures," he said. In God's plan, the Holy Spirit works through human means to affect history, he said, and this helps explain the church's role.

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Student art inspired by donated Mexican masks

MASKS, from page 1

man characteristics. They (the students) were encouraged to go beyond what they usually think of as a traditional mask and to use different art elements, such as texture, shape and color."

"I enjoyed being able to be creative with the mask instead of following specific guidelines," said student Chas Kissick.

The Mexican masks were a gift from Nelson Grice, an anthropologist who lived in the Winston-Salem area and often traveled to Mexico on field studies. He visited the school several years ago to speak with students about his work and, according to Iauco, he never forgot the polite behavior and genuine interest shown by the students.

Last year, before moving to New Mexico, Grice donated some of the masks he had collected over the years to the school. The masks not only offer lessons in Mexican folk art, but also tell the history of the country's religion and society.

"All art is based in culture," said Iauco. "It helps us to understand the world around us."

"There are a lot of religious concepts in art that our [parochial school] children understand," she said. "The whole spiritual concept is more real to them. They have a deeper appreciation for symbolic aspects of other cultures since they have studied the history of the church and religious symbolism."

Masks have been an integral part of Mexican life, even before the Spanish took over the country in the early 16th century, according to Iauco.

In pre-Hispanic times, she said, the Indians held ceremonies at certain times of the year in which masks were worn in processions, dances and theatrical-type performances. This was done not only for the Indians to honor and entertain their deities, but also to encourage the blessing of abundant rain, fertile crops, good health and general well-being.

It was also a way to gather communities together for fun and enjoyment, said Iauco. Descriptions of these festivals and of the masks that were worn are included in chronicles from Catholic priests during the first decades after the Spanish arrived.

As the Spanish brought Christianity to the region, they influenced the Mexican festivals. The priests who worked in the villages persuaded the Indians to adopt a Catholic festival cycle — Christmas, Holy Week, All Saints and All Souls days, feast days for the Virgin Mary and popular saints, and others.

The priests assigned each village a patron saint, whose feast day became highly celebrated.

The priests also introduced Spanish dramas to the Indians as a means for teaching Christianity. Many of these dramas told the story of the defeat and expulsion of the Moors from Spain. Christian morality plays, which depict conversion and the struggles of good and evil, were also introduced in this way.

The plays and festivals soon became a blend of the two cultures and are still



PHOTOS BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Pictured are some of 31 Mexican masks displayed at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem.

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MOVING ONWARD

BAC graduates 181, honors N.C. leaders with honorary degrees

BELMONT — Hundreds of families and friends cheered and applauded as the graduating class of 2005 made their way across the stage.

Belmont Abbey College presented 181 traditional and adult graduates with diplomas during the 127th annual commencement ceremony May 7.

The college also presented honorary doctorates to Bishop Joseph F. Gossman of Raleigh; Paul Polking, a retired vice president of Bank of America; and Helmut Deussen, a member of the college board of trustees who in 1995 was selected by Textile World magazine as one of the top 10 leaders in the industry.

Benedictine Father Christopher Kirchgessner, an Abbey professor, served as this year's master of ceremonies; graduate Katherine Bogie was named valedictorian; and graduate Sean Dunne was named Student of the Year. After graduation, Dunne plans to join the monastery at Belmont Abbey.

The college also recognized faculty achievements, including associate professor of math and physics Stephen Brosnan as the recipient of the 2005



COURTESY PHOTO

Graduate Sean Dunne jumps for joy as he is named Belmont Abbey College Student of the Year during commencement ceremonies May 7.

Adrian Faculty Excellence Award.

Ranked one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report, Belmont Abbey College is home to students from more than 34 states and 17 countries.

Located near Charlotte, the 650-acre campus consists of the college, the Benedictine monastery and the Abbey Basilica. Founded in 1876, the college celebrates its heritage and is inspired by the Benedictine monastic tradition.

popular today.

The various festivals and plays have certain important characters in them. Each mask represents a different symbol, many of which have Christian connotations.

"A double-faced mask commonly portrays the fight of good versus evil," said Iauco.

"Some masks are exaggerated forms of people, while others take on animal forms and represent different strengths and weaknesses," she said. "The jaguar represents beauty and physical prowess, but also the underworld with mysterious qualities."

The mask collection at St. Leo the Great School includes masks made from clay, wood, tin, yarn and coconut husk.

Inside more than half the masks, notes Iauco, there are tiny "shelves" positioned under the wearer's chin to help hold the masks in place. On many of these shelves are worn pieces of linen.

"This is a good indication that these masks were really used," said Iauco.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Panelists say Pope John Paul II's last book rooted in his Polish homeland

BY TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Memory and Identity," the last book by Pope John Paul II, shows him developing his thought from the specific perspective of his home country, according to participants in a panel who discussed the book in New York May 16.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York said that in this book the pope "let his hair down" and allowed his love for his native land and culture to show through.



In "Memory and Identity," the pope developed his philosophy and theology through the lens of his own experience as a "son of Poland," and created a work that will help in understanding his more formal writings, the cardinal said.

Held at the Italian Academy of Columbia University, the panel was arranged by the Crossroads New York Cultural Center, a recently established agency of the lay Catholic movement, Communion and Liberation.

The publisher of the pope's book, Rizzoli, jointly sponsored the event. Rizzoli's president told the audience that the book was doing "extremely well" in sales.

The book was issued in Italian in February, and the panel was arranged to help call attention to its availability now in English.

Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete, spiritual leader of Communion and Liberation in the United States, was panel moderator.

Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, also emphasized the Polish influence on the development of Pope John Paul's thought in "Memory and Identity."

The pope saw in the experience of Poland a "universal value" and affirmed the moral value of patriotism, Anderson said.

He suggested that the pontificate of Pope John Paul II could mark the beginning of a spiritual renewal coming from Poland equivalent to that which emerged

from the work of St. Ignatius Loyola, the Jesuit founder.

"Memory and Identity" will have special significance for the intellectual formation of Catholics who want to work for the transformation of culture, Anderson said.

That the pope's last book is rooted in his experience as part of the Polish nation was developed more fully by Father Richard John Neuhaus, director of the Institute on Religion and Public Life, based in New York, and editor of its journal, First Things.

"How very Polish it is," he commented.

Patriotism, the nation and the church all come together for the pope in this book, Father Neuhaus said.

He said the pope also saw Poland as the embodiment of the suffering of Christ and, as one who played a role in the resurrection of his crucified country, found salvation history inseparable from his experience in his homeland.

When he was elected pope, he believed that in some sense Poland had been elected, Father Neuhaus said.

The pope, he said, was right in seeing the unfolding of a Catholic cultural possibility in Poland.

However, Father Neuhaus also emphasized that the situation of American Catholics was quite different from that of Polish Catholics.

While Pope John Paul could look back to the "baptism of Poland" in its conversion to Christianity a millennium before, American Catholics cannot look to any comparable event in the history of their nation, Father Neuhaus said.

He also noted that the pope could call for building on the Catholic tradition of his country as a way of obeying the Fourth Commandment to honor parents, but American Catholics could not look in a similar way to Native Americans or early settlers such as the Puritans.

And as a nation of immigrants from all countries of the world, the United States does not have a national culture comparable to that of Poland, Father Neuhaus said.

Noting that the United States remains a Christian country sociologically, he said it was also "a very Protestant country."

These factors bring about a "necessary tension" between Catholic Americans and the culture of their country, not a convergence, Father Neuhaus said.

Catholic Americans hope there will not be a conflict between their allegiance to their country and their faith, but their primary allegiance is to their church, he said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 29, 2005

May 29, Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- 3) Gospel: John 6:51-58

EVERYTHING ABOUT JESUS IS ACTION

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was a young girl I had an enormous fear of going to Communion.

I attended a Protestant church, so the Communion ritual was held only once a month. My parents let me stay in the pew because I had such anxiety about the whole thing: I got nervous. I'd break out in a sweat, and my hands would shake so much that I could barely hold the tiny glass without spilling the grape juice.

I was comfortable in my role at church as spectator and was afraid to stand up, walk to the altar and "partake" in front of everybody. Too much responsibility.

But in receiving the consecrated body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist as an adult Catholic, I discovered it to be

"true food" and "true drink," as John's Gospel says. As such, it naturally creates in believers an appetite for the life of Christ within us.

This weekend's readings remind us that the body and blood of Christ is active, not static. It nourishes and flows. The essence of the body of Christ is that it is alive and requires our active participation in it to carry its meaning into the world.

Everything about Jesus is action. Here is your God: walking, teaching, touching, living, healing, praying, suffering, dying, being resurrected, forgiving, seeking, preaching, hungering. He gives us his body and blood, not for us to observe, but to feed us and flow through us for action — the way to salvation, the way to life.

I was not the first to want simply to sit still and in awe before Jesus. The disciples who witnessed his Transfiguration were struck in the same way. But Jesus himself discouraged them from building booths and instead led them down the mountain to participate in his life of struggle and action.

As Paul explained in his letter to the Corinthians, participation is the key to the life of Christ. He wants to be actively part of us and for us to be part of him.

Jesus is not to be kept at arm's length — his own words insist otherwise: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 22-28

Sunday (The Most Holy Trinity), Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, Daniel 3:52-56, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; **Monday**, Sirach 17:20-24, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday**, Sirach 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31; **Wednesday (St. Bede, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi)**, Sirach 36:1, 4-5, 10-17, Mark 10:32-45; **Thursday (St. Philip Neri)**, Sirach 42:15-25, Mark 10:46-52; **Friday (St. Augustine of Canterbury)**, Sirach 44:1, 9-13, Mark 11:11-26; **Saturday**, Sirach 51:12-20, Mark 11:27-33.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 29 - JUNE 4

Sunday (The Body and Blood of Christ), Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; **Monday**, Tobit 1:3; 2:1-8, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday (The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 1:39-56; **Wednesday (St. Justin)**, Tobit 3:1-11, 16-17, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter)**, Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1, 9-14; 8:4-9, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday (Most Sacred Heart of Jesus)**, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary)**, Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20, Tobit 13:2, 6, Luke 2:41-51.

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Two top Vatican Radio officials convicted of polluting the environment

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two top officials at Vatican Radio were convicted of polluting the environment with electromagnetic waves from radio broadcasting towers in a suburb north of Rome.

A Rome court May 9 found Jesuit Father Pasquale Borgomeo, Vatican Radio's general director, and Cardinal Roberto Tucci, president of the radio's management committee, guilty of "dangerous showering of objects," a criminal charge, and sentenced them to 10 days in jail.

The court decision comes after a five-year legal battle waged by residential and local environmental groups against the radio's top directors.

Inhabitants around the radio's transmission center alleged that its levels of electromagnetic radiation had increased the risk of cancer in children.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican Radio's program director, said the radio would appeal the court's decision.

While the radio "appreciated the acquittal of one of the defendants," it would challenge the court decision that "remains clearly unjustified," Father Lombardi said May 9.

He said the radio's transmission center outside Rome had always met with international norms of accepted levels of electromagnetic radiation "even before the existence of Italian standards."

When Italy established its own stricter radiation levels in 1998, the radio began to "carefully respect" the new norms, said Father Lombardi. Their adherence to the norms could be verified by a joint commission from Italy and the Vatican that has been in charge of monitoring radiation levels, he said.

The joint commission convened May 16 to review the radio's compliance with the norms, according to a Vatican statement May 18.

Experts from Italy's environmental

and communications agencies told the commission that the electromagnetic radiation emissions were "in conformity with" the levels required by law, the Vatican statement said.

When constructed five decades ago, the transmission center occupied open countryside in Rome's northern outskirts, but Italian authorities allowed housing construction to surround the site.

In an effort to meet Italy's more stringent norms, in 2001 Vatican Radio began to reduce the power of some of its antennae. The radio also moved some of its European broadcasts to a transmission center in France and other locations.

During the commission's May 16 meeting, the Vatican said it was continuing to convert some of the radio's short- and medium-wave transmitters to digital, which would "permit Vatican Radio to air its programs with less power and lower emissions" as well as with "better broadcasting quality."

Even though the World Health Organization concluded in 1996 that there was no convincing scientific evidence of a link between radio frequencies and cancer, it called for further studies to investigate possible health risks associated with electromagnetic fields.

Father Lombardi said May 9 that with the strict standards in place limiting electromagnetic radiation "there is no justified reason for local residents to be worried."

He said he hoped the Italian courts would eventually recognize that radio officials had always acted "properly."

He also expressed his wish that the justice system would someday help "clear away the dark shadows" that tainted the radio's "good reputation and contributed to feeding unfounded fears in people."

The Rome court also decided that Vatican Radio would have to pay all the plaintiffs' legal fees.

Italian news reports May 10 said representatives of some of the plaintiffs said they were "satisfied" with the court's findings.



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Schiavo case should inspire talks and wills

SCHIAVO, from page 1

tional Press Club in Washington.

"Of the 100 things that can happen at the end of life, a living will will typically cover two of them," said David Magnus, director of the Center for Bioethics at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, Calif. "There are a million variants."

"Living wills are not the solution" to disputes among family members over end-of-life care, said Art Caplan, chairman of the medical ethics department and director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Both ethicists were critical of the media handling of what Caplan called the "soap opera" surrounding Schiavo, the severely brain-damaged Florida woman whose March 31 death came 13 days after her feeding tube was removed at the direction of her husband, Michael.

Bob and Mary Schindler, Terri Schiavo's parents, had fought for years in the courts and in the media to keep their daughter alive. Legislators in Florida and in the U.S. Congress passed special laws written to aid the Schindlers in their efforts.

"But was anything broken" regarding termination-of-care practices in the United States, Caplan asked, responding in the negative.

"Did (Schiavo) have adequate protections under the law?" he added. "I believe she did. Does medicine know what it's doing regarding PVS (persistent vegetative state)? I think it does."

Caplan said the media contributed to public misunderstandings about the persistent vegetative state, giving the impression that it is "an uncertain diagnosis," that patients in this state "can suffer" and that people can awaken from a persistent vegetative state.

For patients such as Schiavo, whose brain was deprived of oxygen for a time, persistent vegetative state is "a rock-solid diagnosis," he said.

Magnus said the media were guilty of causing "confusion between balance and showing two sides" in the dispute over Schiavo.

"When we have a broad consensus, with 99.9 percent of neurologists in agreement" about persistent vegetative state in general and Schiavo's condition in particular, it is not balanced journalism to find one doctor who disagrees and then to present each view as equal, Magnus said.

Magnus said state laws on termination of care vary widely, adding that if the Schiavo case had taken place in Texas or California Schiavo's death "could have taken place much, much earlier, even against the wishes of Michael Schiavo."

Terri Schiavo's parents meet Vatican official, thank him for support

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The parents of the late Terri Schindler Schiavo visited a top Vatican official to thank him for his defense of their daughter's right to life.

Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, received Bob and Mary Schindler, parents of the 41-year-old Florida woman who died March 31, nearly two weeks after a court ordered her feeding tube to be disconnected.

At his May 17 meeting with the Schindlers, Cardinal Martino reiterated his condemnation of "the killing of this woman in one of the most inhumane and

cruel ways, through hunger and thirst."

The Schindlers "expressed their appreciation to the cardinal for making bold efforts to save the life of their daughter" who was "practically condemned to die by the U.S. courts on the petition of the woman's husband," a Vatican statement said.

Before Terri Schiavo died, numerous church leaders, including Cardinal Martino, had made public appeals to save her life.

The council's statement said the Schindlers were scheduled to take part in Pope Benedict XVI's general audience May 18.

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FROM THE COVER

Sudanese stories of hope, life, faith

SUDAN, from page 1

As Aller talked about how his faith sustained him during the war years, he said that of his eight children only six are alive; two of his sons were killed in the war. His oldest son, Mario Malou, who would now be about 37, left in the late 1970s to avoid being forced to join the army.

"He wanted to be free ... he went away. I think he is in the United States now; someone told me that is where he went," Aller said.

Touching his heart, Aller added: "If you can find my son, tell him my foundation is empty. He will understand."

Deacon Francis Lemyama, 37, said that for about 12 years the Nuba Mountains region was cut off from the rest of the country.

"There was nothing coming in, and people simply learned to go without" things like clothes, soap and salt, he said, adding that no relief agencies worked in the area.

"The only thing the people had was the diocese," he said.

Deacon Lemyama remembered what a great occasion it was when a bishop brought sweets for the children, many of whom did not know what candy was.

Captured dreams

Makuc Akec, 28, left the South in 1988 and fled to northern Sudan, hoping it would be safer there.

He was living in El Obeid and had gone to the river to get water when he was surrounded and captured by troops. He said the soldiers tied him to a tree and told him, "We can kill you."

Akec said the soldiers put him into a cattle camp, where he was forced to watch the herd. After two years of living with the militia, he escaped one night. The soldiers quickly found him and sent him to a second cattle camp in the North.

Akec managed to escape a second time, only to be captured again and taken back. This time he managed to rejoin his wife and two sets of twin girls, who lived with him in the cattle camp for a year.

Adior Thuc, his wife, looked away and answered softly when asked if she or her daughters had been abused. With her face shielded from view and her eyes averted, she said they were beaten and abused.

Bishop Macram Max Gassis of El Obeid interrupted the silence that followed and suggested Thuc probably had experienced things simply too difficult for her to share.

Later, Akec recalled how he was duped by the soldiers. They told him that if he stayed with them for one year he would get a cow to help restart his life. However, after the year they did not give him anything.

Eventually rebel troops negotiated his release from the government camp and his return to Turalei. Akec said after his release he walked away without any belongings, but at least his wife and daughters were with him.

Akec and Thuc said they hope their children will be able to attend school in Turalei. The sets of twins — 15 and 5 years old — have never attended school.

Fleeing for freedom

Father Joseph Mogga, a parish priest in Turalei, said he entered a minor seminary when his family fled to the refugee camps in neighboring Uganda; he did not see them for another 12 years.

"My younger sisters didn't even recognize me ... they didn't know who I was," he said.

Father Mogga's mother, now in her 70s, has spent more than 20 years in refugee camps.

"However," he said, "her one dream is to die in Sudan."

Father Mogga said his older brother, John, fled to Khartoum, as the war inten-



CNS PHOTO BY DEACON GREG LAFRENIERE, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Children in Turalei, Sudan, wait for the start of Mass during the week after Easter. Many of the youngsters have returned from refugee camps in northern Sudan or neighboring countries.

sified. He then migrated to Egypt to avoid joining the army. He has been in Canada for 25 years and has not seen his family, although he has kept in touch through letters.

Ahmed Hran, 45, an Arab Muslim, fled his village in western Sudan's Darfur region after an attack by government and militia troops.

"Everything was destroyed," he said, adding that he and friends left all

their belongings when they fled.

He said troops destroyed all the houses and cut down all the trees in his village, but "we don't know why."

"Those who couldn't run away were killed, and all the animals were killed," he said.

"We need the truth to get out ... let everyone, especially the Catholics and Christians, come to Sudan to search for and see what is wrong," he said.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Reflections stirred by serving the homebound

Church community is for giving, getting help

As I drive into the parish parking lot, I savor the absolute beauty of this spring morning. It's spring, and in one dramatic, synchronized gesture, all the birch trees have exploded with triumphant little leaves.

Heading for the meeting room, I note there's not a cloud in the sky. When I emerge from the windowless room in an hour, this perfect day will still be there for me. I have soil to overturn, I've seen plenty of Saturday garage sale signs that piqued my interest, and the dog will be eager for a walk.

But sometimes when I leave our monthly "Care and Compassion" meetings, I'm not quite the woman I was when I walked in. This day is like that.

We acknowledge that our little committee is misnamed. Our singular mission is taking the Eucharist to the homebound on Sunday. There are other committees (like "Outreach") that solve problems such as how someone without transportation gets to a doctor's appointment or how a family struck with devastating illness gets a warm evening meal.

Our job is to ensure that those who can't make it to Mass partake of the body of Christ nonetheless.

We have our little list of the homebound (a much nicer word than "shut-ins"), and we report on the month's activity.

Ruth — no real names used — lives with her daughter and relies on oxygen. A medication for arthritis took a toll on her lungs. Now well into her 80s, she is cheerful and alert, and always ready for a good long visit.

The little women at one of the nicest assisted-living homes remain about the same. One is sliding more into dementia, and there is a question about whether one of the women who wants to receive is really Catholic.

We consult with our deacon or priest over these thornier issues of eligibility, but sometimes we are forced to make our own pastoral judgments on the spot.

The care provider at one assisted-living facility has begun telling us "it's not a good time" to visit Emma. She's in the third stage of dementia, we're told, not having good nights.

We ponder whether it's legitimate, this being turned away, and someone remarks that the home — an in-home care center — seems "creepy."

Inevitably, our attention turns to

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



how nice it would be to have more help, and from there we view the wider parish picture. We all know someone who needs support, someone who's received a devastating diagnosis, someone who's having a knee replacement, someone whose husband is moving into dementia. "This church is our community," remarks the woman next to me. "This is where people should turn for help."

We talk about whether things are coordinated enough at the parish. We have committees, but are they in touch with each other? Can we get the word out on the needs we have?

"There are so many people out there who would help, if they just knew some need they could fill," someone says.

Our dormant stewardship committee finally has been reborn, and it has a big job to do coordinating all the people who could help with all the people who need help, motivating the folks in the pews to be more than Sunday Catholics.

I look around at our committee. We're middle-aged and beyond. The day will come when some of us will need the help we now give.

The day is still lovely as I head to my car, spring still beckoning. But my mood is just a little more reflective now.

Pope Benedict says Pope John Paul 'is watching us from on high'

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Marking the birthday of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI told pilgrims they can be certain that Pope John Paul II "is watching us from on high and is with us."

The pope spoke at a general audience May 18, before some 25,000 visitors who braved intermittent rain showers in St. Peter's Square.

"I'd like to recall that today is the birthday of Pope John Paul II. He would have been 85 today. And we are sure that he is watching us from on high and is with us," the pope said before beginning his regular audience talk.

"On this occasion, we want to give great thanks to the Lord for the gift of this pope, and we want to say thank you to the pope himself for all that he did and all that he suffered," Pope Benedict said, as the crowd broke into sustained applause.

Hundreds of thousands of people have come to St. Peter's to visit the tomb of the late pontiff, who died April 2.

On May 13, Pope Benedict said he was allowing the immediate opening of Pope John Paul's cause for sainthood, lifting the usual five-year waiting period.

Pope Benedict continued the series of audience talks begun by Pope John Paul on the psalms. He explicated Psalm 113, which praises the Lord for his care of the world's poor and humble.

The pope noted that after extolling God's name and glory in heaven the psalmist "turns his attention to our earthly horizon": "He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with princes ..."

The psalmist thus praises a God who is "very different from us in his greatness, but at the same time very close to his creatures who suffer," the pope said. He looks on the world not with "the cold

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



eyes of an emperor" but with sympathy, he said.

The pope said the psalm foreshadows the Magnificat, the canticle of Mary in St. Luke's Gospel, which he said is even more radical in saying of God: "He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly."

The pope later delivered greetings in several languages, welcoming in English a group of Japanese Buddhists.

Through an aide, he extended greetings in Russian to a group of Russian Catholic pilgrims led by Moscow Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz.

To Polish pilgrims he again recalled Pope John Paul, calling him an "unforgettable pope who is in everyone's hearts."

On May 19, Pope Benedict was scheduled to attend a Vatican screening of a three-hour TV movie on the life of Pope John Paul.

At the end of the audience the pope gave individual greetings to a long line of people in wheelchairs, who were brought past him one by one.

Then he spent about 20 minutes greeting other pilgrims lined up along the barricades. He blessed newlywed couples, kissed babies, heard individual petitions, accepted homemade gifts and had his hand kissed hundreds of times.

Is there an angel named Uriel?

Q. As a grade-school religion teacher, I begin each year by discussing angels, especially guardian angels. Recently I have seen religious catalogues advertising statues of an Archangel Uriel. Who is this? If he is an archangel, why do we only hear of Michael, Raphael and Gabriel? (Maryland)

A. The name Uriel occurs in apocryphal Jewish scriptures, the Books of Enoch, as one of four archangels.

Enoch, our Bible says, was the father of Methuselah. Genesis (5:24) tells us Enoch "walked with God, and he was no longer here, for God took him." This implies, so it was believed, that Enoch did not die but, like the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 2), was taken alive to heaven.

The three Books of Enoch were known widely in the early years of Christianity. Written around the time of Christ, they significantly influenced early Christian writings, including the New Testament.

They are the first to designate the Messiah with names like the Son of Man, the Righteous One (e.g. Acts 3:14) and the Chosen One (e.g. Lk 9:35).

The New Testament Letter to the Hebrews names Enoch as one of the ancient heroes of faith who did not "see death" but was taken up to God (Heb 11:5). Other Christian theologians often refer to these books. The Letter of Jude quotes them at least once (v. 14).

With such a well-known work devoting considerable attention to the angel

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Uriel, among other things placing him in charge of the netherworld, it is perhaps understandable that even today certain religious groups honor him.

Only the three angels named in the Bible — Raphael, Gabriel and Michael — are honored by name in Christian history and tradition.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Of war's remembrance: An archbishop's story

Memorial Day good time to remember, honor those who serve others

We are a remembering people, we Catholic Christians.

We remember the Lord "in the breaking of the bread." We remember our past in art and architecture, in the lives of our saints, in the history of missionary activity, ecumenical councils and so much more. Remembering is part of who we are.

So it is quite congenial for us to participate each year in our nation's Memorial Day celebration, the civic remembrance of those who fought and died in military service. Even those among us who are opposed to war are open to prayer and reflection prompted by this annual end-of-May day of remembrance.

This year, as the nation marked the 60th anniversary in early May of the end of our war with Nazi Germany, Baltimore Catholics were pleased to read in their daily newspaper the story of the bravery of their retired Archbishop William Donald Borders.

Many were unaware that he saw combat duty as a chaplain in World War II. *The Baltimore Sun* reporter coaxed out of him some of the details of the heroic action that won for him the Bronze Star for Valor.

He was a battalion chaplain, not quite

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



30, with the 91st Infantry Division in Italy in September 1944. During an attack on a German position, one of the American troops was hit and lay wounded on the battlefield. Chaplain Borders ran out under machine-gun fire, lifted the fallen soldier to his shoulder and moved him to safety.

"After I anointed him, they sent him to the rear, and I never saw him again," the now retired archbishop told the reporter.

As to bravery in the face of danger, "it didn't enter your mind one way or another, you're too busy. You're involved all the time. When you're involved, you're thinking about what you're doing, not: Am I brave, or am I not brave. It just doesn't enter your mind.

"Another person says you're courageous. You don't think of it. The motivation is somebody needs help, pure and simple."

Now 91, Archbishop Borders has been helping people in a variety of circumstances and in many places over the years.

"Nobody prepares you for battle," Archbishop Borders told the reporter. "You can't do it. How do you prepare for someone dying?"

What did he do on the battlefield?

"If they were conscious, I talked to them, gave them counsel, administered the sacraments of penance and the holy Eucharist, and anointed many people who were dying. I don't have any idea how many. You don't keep statistics. It wasn't constant, of course. Combat is never constant. It comes and goes."

With the help of the annual Washington, D.C., Memorial Day Concert, seen live or on public television from the West Lawn of the Capitol on the Sunday evening before the holiday, millions of Americans can understand what Archbishop Borders meant when he closed out the newspaper interview by saying softly, "It was a long time ago, but you never forget something like that."

With the 60th anniversary of V-J Day approaching in mid-August, this will be a summer of remembrance for a nation that is grateful to all its known and unknown heroes.

Catholics all across the nation, not just in Baltimore, are humbly proud and proudly humble to have been served by the likes of William Donald Borders, who has been reaching out for so many years simply because "somebody needs help."

Contemporary secularism's message for us

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



Throughout history, secularism and the profane have been adversaries of Christianity.

With the United States and other countries becoming increasingly secular and profane, the new millennium could find itself in a serious crisis. To understand why, let's define these two adversaries and their effects on the world.

The Dutch theologian C. A. Van Peursen says secularism is the deliverance of man, first from religious and then from metaphysical control over his reason and language. It is the loosening of the world from religious and quasi-religious understandings of itself, the dispelling of all closed worldviews, the breaking of all supernatural myths and sacred symbols.

Secularization occurs when we become engrossed in this world and this time, meaning we are locked into the age we live in, with no other age to look ahead or back to.

Our Christian moral standards are a way we show God at work in the world. We forever are looking beyond this world for guidance. We also look back to Catholic tradition and the values it embraces.

Secularism would have us live only for today and not toward God or past history. Once this happens, the moral constraints based on God's laws and Christian traditions tend to disappear.

Many people end up doing whatever gives them pleasure, which, more often than not, ends in self-destruction and harming others.

"Profane" means "outside the temple." It has to do with being nonreligious.

Why are secularism and the profane life on the increase?

One reason is that evangelization is not keeping up with growing populations. Churches aren't effectively educating people about religion, either due to outdated programs or they aren't getting out to the people.

They are also in competition with the media, which tends to be more secular than religious, and some religious leaders, who have badly damaged religion's image.

I believe also some people fear religion because knowing God means keeping God's commandments. This is often misinterpreted as losing one's freedom.

The dramatic increase in secularism and the profane life should not be feared, but rather seen as a crisis. The word "crisis" refers to a crossroads.

At present, we are at a crossroads that should prompt us to envision the new, exciting types of leadership and programs that are needed to get people looking heavenward — in awe, rather than in fear, of God.

The wisdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero

Priest's legacy lives on in faithful

I've been reading a book called "Cloud of Witnesses" that brings us the voices of remarkable people — some come with the Lord, some very much live on earth. What they all have had in common is that they lived, or are living, their lives according to the Beatitudes.

I give great credit to Jim Wallis and Joyce Hollyday, who selected what I would call gems of writings from such masters of the Lord as Henri Nouwen, Martin Luther King Jr., Sojourner Truth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Penny Lernoux, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Father Jon Sobrino and so many more.

I was especially moved by Father Sobrino's words expressing what he learned from the personal pain of so much killing in his years in Latin America, particularly in El Salvador, the country so loved by Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador who was assassinated 25 years ago.

"I don't know how you can show love in this world of sin without being in solidarity with the victims of this world. And if you are in solidarity with the victims of this world, I don't see how you can avoid the cross. The theology of the cross is the theology of love in our

real world."

Those words so truly apply to Archbishop Romero.

He called himself "the voice of the voiceless," working for his people, so poor, so oppressed by those in power in Latin America. He said the church no longer could be silent when an area of 300 million people, mostly Catholic, were poor, undernourished and always under the control of those in authority waving their guns.

For this he was assassinated while celebrating Mass.

He was hated by the country's rulers because he spoke the truth. They couldn't have a respected man of God telling his people:

"Woe to the powerful when they do not take into account the power of God, the only powerful one, when they try to subjugate people to their power by torturing, by killing, by massacring! What terrible idolatry is being offered to the god of power, the god of money! So many victims, so much blood, for which God, the true God, the author of human life, will charge a high price from these idolaters of power!"

Admittedly, to think or speak this

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE
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way does not place one in a very popular earthly position. The archbishop knew that the reality that had shaped his life — his choice to remain faithful to God's justice and the Gospel of Jesus Christ — put his life in danger.

Certainly Archbishop Romero was a man of courage, deserving of our deepest respect. He must have had a premonition he would be killed.

In his own words he acknowledged this, yet said: "If I am killed, I shall arise in the Salvadoran people. I say so without boasting, with the greatest humility. ... Let my death, if it is accepted by God, be for my people's liberation and as a witness of hope in the future."

He is not forgotten by his people, for as Dr. Juan Romagoza, executive director of La Clinica del Pueblo, wrote this March, "His prophetic voice continues to echo during these times of injustice and oppression."

And he gives a promise to Archbishop Romero: "In a world where massacres, saturation bombing and wars are promoted, we will follow your example. We will become instruments of peace."

Romero lives!

St. John Neumann Church serves growing Catholic community



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte is home to a thriving community of young Catholics.

CHARLOTTE — Three decades ago, seven Catholic churches served all the Catholics in Charlotte, the city that in 1972 had been designated the see city of a newly formed diocese.

By that time, Catholicism was becoming more firmly rooted in western North Carolina and Bishop Michael J. Begley was faced with the task of building more churches to accommodate the growing numbers of Catholics settling in the region.

It was from that need in the southeast Charlotte-Mint Hill area that Charlotte's eighth parish, St. John Neumann Church, was created in 1977.

Msgr. Lawrence Newman, then-pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, assumed the first pastorate of St. John Neumann Church. About 250 families, many from Our Lady of the Assumption Church, formed the registry of the new parish.

The parish began plans to build a

church while Msgr. Newman celebrated Saturday vigil Mass at a Methodist church and Sunday liturgies at the Idlewild Country Club. Weekday Masses were celebrated at the rectory, a house that already existed on the church property on Idlewild Road.

A church soon was built, and Bishop Begley dedicated the new structure on June 17, 1979.

Msgr. Newman died in January 1981 and was succeeded by Father Frank O'Rourke, currently pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and vicar forane for the Greensboro vicariate.

Rapid parish growth prompted the need for a larger church in the mid-1980s. Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue dedicated the new building June 23, 1985.

In 1987, Father O'Rourke was appointed the rector of St. Patrick Cathedral across town, and the Conventual Franciscan Friars arrived at St. John Neumann Church. Conventual

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH

8451 Idlewild Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28227
(704) 536-6520

Vicariate: Charlotte

Pastor: Augustinian Father Thomas Meehan

Parochial Vicar: Augustinian Father Arthur Johnson

Permanent Deacon: Deacon John Parrish

Number of Households: 1,865

Franciscan Father (now Msgr.) Richard Bellow then became the church's pastor. Msgr. Bellow is now pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville and vicar forane for the Charlotte vicariate.

In March 1998, at the request of then-Bishop William G. Curlin, the Augustinians came to Charlotte to staff St. John Neumann Church, the first Augustinians to minister in Charlotte.

Augustinian Father Thomas Meehan became the parish's first Augustinian pastor, a position he continues to hold today. In June 2005, he will celebrate the

25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Since its beginning phases, the church has incorporated the theme "Building Together a Community of Faith" into its daily life. Through that theme, the St. John Neumann parish community has established a variety of commissions dedicated to evangelization, liturgy, Respect Life activities, family and community life and communications.

Adult education programs and Scripture study sessions offer other opportunities for adults, while younger parishioners take part in educational, sporting and social programs. The women's club, 50+ club, Secular Franciscans, RCIA program and Knights of Columbus and its ladies auxiliary are among the parish groups active in social and spiritual activities on a regular basis. The Knights council is North Carolina's second largest.

St. John Neumann Church continues to experience growth and change. In June 1997, then-Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated a Mass at the church marking the retirement of the church's debt. A pastoral plan for the next 10 years is in the process of being written.

According to Father Meehan, St. John Neumann parish is young and thriving. More than 800 children are enrolled in faith formation, and evangelization is a major focus of the parish.

"We reach out to anyone and everyone we can," Father Meehan said.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Special monstrance comes
to Charlotte; sharing
Communion and faith

|PAGE 7

MAY 27, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 33

AFTER AN 'UNJUST DEATH'

Terri Schiavo's parents meet pope at end of his general audience

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The parents of the late Terri Schindler Schiavo met briefly with Pope Benedict XVI at the end of his May 18 general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Bob and Mary Schindler, parents of the 41-year-old Florida woman who died after a court ordered her feeding tube to be disconnected, shook hands with the pope and pre-

See SCHIAVO, page 13

In first month, Pope Benedict places distinctive mark on papacy

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — He began under the sign of continuity, but in his first month Pope Benedict XVI has already placed his own distinctive mark on the papacy.

His public appearances, while generating enormous enthusiasm, have been designed more to provoke thought than to please crowds. This will be a teaching pope, and his lessons draw heavily on Scripture.

The new pope has kept

See POPE, page 16

A place of worship and education



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the altar with holy chrism oil during the dedication Mass of the new Charlotte Catholic High School chapel May 9. Also pictured are Father John Allen, chaplain; Augustinian Father James Cassidy, former principal; and Father Christopher Roux, episcopal master of ceremonies.

Charlotte Catholic High School chapel dedicated

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Students at Charlotte Catholic High School now have a beautiful, spacious chapel in which to attend Mass.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the school's new chapel in a special dedication Mass May 9. The Mass was broadcast throughout school via

See CHAPEL, page 10



COURTESY PHOTO

A young boy washes truck tires for a small amount of money in Nicaragua. Many poor children in the Central American country are their families' sole support. The Somotillo Committee of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches takes supplies to the community and assesses its needs.

Wiping away the despair North Carolinians help students in Nicaragua

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

SOMOTILLO, NICARAGUA — The river was shallow enough that their vehicle could drive across. A few inches deeper and the delegation would have had to swim or wade across to visit the agricultural school.

There is no bridge — that

washed away several years ago and there is no money to rebuild.

Mary Priest, Joan Otte and Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin, of the Somotillo Committee of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, spent a week in Somotillo in April visiting the elementary and agricultural schools and

day-care center the committee helps support.

They delivered 300 pounds of school supplies, children's sandals, sheets and towels to Precious Blood Sister Rachel Penal, who coordinates the schools' needs.

The kids love music so

See MISSION, page 12

Serving God and church
Vice chancellor retires from
Diocese of Charlotte

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Centering prayer
Ancient practice taught at
local workshop

|PAGE 9

Perspectives
Roe v. Wade tragedies;
Understanding the Bible

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

ON ANGELS' WINGS



CNS PHOTO BY GAIL YERBIC, CHRONICLE OF CATHOLIC LIFE

Tessa, Tyrel, Joe and Linda Sullivan say they feel like one of God's miracles after escaping with only minor injuries when their van tumbled off a mountain pass in February. The Montrose, Colo., family went to Mass at their parish church the next day.

Surviving harrowing auto accident strengthens Catholic family's faith

MONTROSE, Colo. (CNS) — Members of a Colorado Catholic family who suffered only minor injuries after their van tumbled off a mountain pass to a depth of nearly 400 feet last February said the harrowing experience strengthened their faith.

They feel like one of God's miracles.

After Linda Sullivan, along with husband Joe, daughter Tessa, son Tyrel, and two family friends survived the accident, they attended Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose the next day.

"It was pretty touching," said Father Don Malin, who anointed the family with oil after the Mass.

The travelers were on their way home to Montrose from Durango where Tessa and her high school team had just played basketball.

Joe was driving, and felt unconcerned as he approached "the shed," a stretch of highway where frequent slides of snow and rocks occur. Guardrails cannot be placed along the side because they would interfere with the road being cleared.

As Joe began to round the corner, the van began to slide. Joe knew he no longer had control of the vehicle.

"All I thought was that I had killed us," Joe said in a recent interview.

As the van rolled down the rocky chute, seat belts kept everyone in place,

but with the windows blown out, Tessa's face scraped the rocky ground as the vehicle rolled.

Meanwhile, Skip Garcia, a parishioner at St. Columba Church in Durango, who happened to be traveling a short distance behind the van, noticed as he rounded a corner that it had disappeared. He met an oncoming traveler, Benedictine Father Nathanael Foshage of St. Daniel the Prophet Parish in Ouray, at the spot where the van's tracks went off the side of the mountain.

They walked along the road until they spotted the van down below. It was on its side in the frozen river.

The two male passengers climbed out and began searching for a way up the mountain to get help. Then they saw Father Foshage and Garcia at the top hollering that help was on its way. Within minutes, sirens echoed through the canyon. The rescue effort took about an hour and a half.

"We just felt the need to go to church the next night," Linda said.

The family hopes the fact they were all wearing seat belts will be an example to others.

Most importantly, they said the event strengthened them individually and as a family. They said they appreciate each other more and embrace God's purpose for their lives.

Catholic-Methodist dialogue issues report on church as communion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite differences, there are many parallels in the way Catholics and Methodists foster and express communion with God and one another through their respective church structures, says a report released May 13 by the U.S. Catholic-United Methodist dialogue.

The 20,000-word report, titled "Through Divine Love: The Church in Each Place and All Places," is the result of nine dialogue sessions over the past five years.

Through the biblical concept of koinonia — communion or fellowship — it clarifies the theology of the church as developed in the Catholic and Methodist traditions, with their different understandings of local and universal church.

It explores the church as a means of grace and differences and commonalities in Catholic and Methodist views of mission, baptism and Eucharist.

In its conclusion the report cites "the imperative of common mission for all." It

encourages Catholics and Methodists to continue current collaboration and develop new ways of "deepening common witness."

The report says looking at the church through the lens of koinonia enabled the dialogue to discuss a "shared vision of the church as a partnership of divine love" that is articulated through "sharing of a common faith, a common sacramental life, bonds of love and communion, and a common witness, proclaiming the Gospel to the world."

Catholics regard baptism as initiation "into the universal church thought of simultaneously and barely distinguishably as both the Catholic Church and the body of Christ," it says.

Apart from certain limited pastoral exceptions, the Catholic Church admits to the Eucharist only those who are baptized and in "full communion in the bonds of the profession of faith, the sacraments and ecclesial governance," it says.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — *Natural Family Planning* (NFP) classes will begin June 2 at 6:30 p.m. NFP is safe, healthy, effective and uses no drugs or devices. For more information on this or future classes, call Al and Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044 or e-mail delachic@riverco.net. For more information on the NFP method, visit celi.org.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Augustinian Father Thomas Meehan will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood June 12 at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. Father Meehan will celebrate Mass at 12 p.m. followed by a reception in the parish hall. For more information, call Connie Milligan at (704) 535-4197.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Faith Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and third Mondays of each month. The group will read "The Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese and a chapter will be covered every meeting. For more information call Jordan (704) 737-1964 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew

Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* invites all women to a luncheon May 25 at Cardinal Country Club, 5700 Cardinal Way. Pre-lunch social will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12 p.m. The program will be presented by Sheila Duell, music director of Our Lady of Grace Church. For more information, please call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Guilford County, Division 1, will hold its monthly meeting June 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X School, 2200 N. Elm St. There will be a presentation on terrorism fol-

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FROM THE VATICAN

Austria honors pope's brother for contributions to science, art

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the presence of his younger brother, the pope, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger was awarded Austria's highest honor for contributions to science and art.

Helmut Turk, Austria's ambassador to the Vatican, presented the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art to the 81-year-old Msgr. Ratzinger during a brief ceremony May 19 at the Vatican.

Msgr. Ratzinger is a musician and composer who for years directed Germany's famous Regensburg boys' choir.

The Austrian honor cited Msgr. Ratzinger's "30 years of cultural ties with Austria."

Pope asks Macedonia to allow religion classes in elementary schools

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope

Benedict XVI asked the government of Macedonia to keep its promise to allow religion to be taught in public elementary schools.

"Knowledge enlightened by faith, far from dividing communities, binds peoples together in the common search for truth, which defines every human as one who lives by belief," the pope said May 19 during a ceremony welcoming Macedonia's new ambassador to the Vatican.

Slightly more than 2 million people live in the small Balkan nation; the Vatican estimates there are about 15,000 Catholics in the former Yugoslav republic, which gained independence in 1991.

Pope Benedict told the new ambassador, Bartolomej Kajtazi, that the future stability and social and economic progress of his nation will depend to a large extent on efforts to improve the country's education system.

Kajtazi told the pope his country had put much effort into building a "more humane and prosperous" nation, "and on this difficult path a great progress has been achieved."

Vatican foreign minister says pope committed to united Europe

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — German-born Pope Benedict XVI is as committed as any of his predecessors to promoting a united Europe based on shared ethical and moral values, the Vatican foreign minister said.

Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, Vatican secretary for relations with states, represented the Holy See at the May 16-17 summit of the Council of Europe in Warsaw, Poland.

The archbishop told the heads of government that former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict, had proposed "a number of considerations, both historical and doctrinal, on the subject of European unity and values, which remain relevant and worthy of attention."

Europe will serve as an agent of peace in the world, he said, only if it:

— Promotes human dignity and human rights, especially freedom of conscience and of religion.

— Promotes solidarity.

— Respects national and cultural identities.

Archbishop Lajolo also said European institutions — social and religious — must find ways to ensure that the growth of individual freedom does not become even more divorced from the reality of social responsibility.

While the Council of Europe is focused on the continent, the archbishop said, Europeans must recognize that co-operation with the United States and Canada is "indispensable for maintaining peace in a globalized world."

Archbishop Lajolo said the Council of Europe can count on the Vatican and on the Catholic Church to continue assisting the process of European unity and cohesion through its teaching, its charitable work and its commitment to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.

owed by a potluck supper. Please call Marilyn Conte at (336) 632-1340 if you plan to attend or need more details.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle*

of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Mourning in Muralbi



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A woman cries after the reburial of the remains of 250 newly recovered victims of the 1994 genocide during a service in the village of Muralbi in eastern Rwanda April 7. Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics in Rwanda, where 800,000 people were slaughtered during ethnic violence in 1994, to remain steadfast in faith and hopeful for the future.

NOTICE TO READERS

As of June 1, *The Catholic News & Herald* begins its summer bi-weekly publishing schedule. Our next issue will be Friday, June 10.

CORRECTION

In the story "Celebrating the Year of the Eucharist" in the May 13 edition, the final quote from Father Roger Arnsparger should have read:

"We must be in communion with Jesus, so that we may receive Communion. When we receive Communion, then we develop deeper into being in communion with God and at the same time being in communion with each other."

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 1 — 7 p.m. Charlotte Catholic High School Baccalaureate Mass
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

June 2 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis

June 3 — 11:45 a.m. Midday prayer with priests of the Diocese
Observing Feast of the Sacred Heart
Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Charlotte

June 4 — Eucharistic Congress
Atlanta, Ga.

June 7 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

June 8 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Joseph Church, Asheboro

June 10 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mary Church, Greensboro

June 11 — 5 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Michael Church, Gastonia

June 15-18 USCCB Spring meeting
Chicago

June 20 — 7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe



COURTESY PHOTO

House of Mercy residents are seen in front of a Chevrolet Venture minivan that was purchased with a \$10,000 grant from the Hackett Foundation.

House of Mercy purchases minivan with grant

BELMONT — House of Mercy, Inc., a nonprofit residence for persons living with advanced AIDS, received a \$10,000 grant from The Hackett Foundation based in Clinton, N.J.

As reported in *The Gaston Gazette*, the grant money has been applied toward the purchase of a 2004 Chevrolet Venture van that will be used to take residents to medical appointments and on recreational outings.

House of Mercy staff also will use the van for errands such as grocery shopping for the residents.

"The minivan replaces a 1994 station wagon with over 86,000 miles that was badly rusted with a well-worn interior," said Stan Patterson, House of Mercy president.

"Our residents, especially those limited to wheelchairs, will have easier access into and out of the minivan," he said.

The Hackett Foundation's funding priorities are Catholic missions, religious orders, social service agencies and schools for the handicapped/disabled primarily located in New Jersey, New York

and Pennsylvania.

House of Mercy was founded in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont to provide housing and 24-hour care for low-income persons living with advanced AIDS. More than 200 men and women have made their home at House of Mercy where physical, psychological and spiritual support are provided to residents.

House of Mercy is the only facility of its type in the region. This year, 50 percent of their admissions have been women. On average, 72 percent of residents at House of Mercy have been minorities and almost 30 percent have been female.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about House of Mercy, see www.thehouseofmercy.org



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PARISH PARTY

New members welcomed at basilica

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — The Family Life Commission of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville recently held a parish picnic to welcome 150 new parishioners.

The gathering was held after the noon Mass May 15.

Although rain forced the picnic inside, the weather did not dampen the spirit of the celebration. Parishioners

enjoyed a buffet lunch with entertainment provided by the Hispanic choir accompanied by guitars and keyboard.

Juan Antonio Garcia, coordinator of Hispanic ministry for the Asheville Vicariate and emcee of the gathering, led the choir and spoke of plans to implement Spanish and English prayer groups in the near future.

Games were available for the children, while adults enjoyed some spontaneous dancing around the hall.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

New and current parishioners enjoy dancing and fun during an indoor picnic welcoming new members to the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville May 15.

WRITERS SOUGHT

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST!



The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Serving God and church

Deacon Curtiss Todd retires, reflects as vice chancellor of diocese

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — After almost 12 years as vice chancellor, Deacon Curtiss Todd is still impressed by the growth in the Diocese of Charlotte and the Catholic Church.

"When I came here, we had 700-800 employees in the Diocese of Charlotte," he said. "Now, we have almost 2,000 employees."

Deacon Todd officially retired as vice chancellor May 20. He was honored with a retirement party at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the diocese, expressed his gratitude for Deacon Todd's years of service.

Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue appointed Deacon Todd as vice chancellor Aug. 9, 1993. Already in service to the diocese as a permanent deacon at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, Deacon Todd, a father of four, described the appointment as an answer to a prayer.

Employed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since 1971, Deacon Todd had been serving as acting director in Charlotte.

"One of my daily prayers became, 'Please let me be able to retire from my current job and get a job in the church,'" he said.

His prayer became a reality in June 1993 when the EEOC offered early retirement. Seeking full-time work with the diocese, the vice chancellor appointment was a pleasant surprise.

"I was thinking in terms of vacuuming the floors," he said with a smile, candidly admitting he would have taken any diocesan position.

Deacon Todd was never asked to clean floors, but since his appointment as vice chancellor, he has taken on a number of extra duties.

In addition to serving as director of Human Resources, writing a number of diocesan policies — including the personnel policy handbook, managers' manual and sexual misconduct policy — and overseeing the diocesan archives and *The Catholic News & Herald*, Deacon Todd was appointed as vicar of African American Affairs Ministry in February 1995 by then-Bishop William G. Curlin in a move to give more visibility to African-American Catholics.

"As vice chancellor, Deacon Todd touches the lives of all in the diocese and adds great importance to his new assignment as vicar for African American Affairs," said Bishop Curlin in December 1994. "I see this as a marvelous opportunity to extend the love of the church to the community at large, especially the African-American community."

The ministry's focuses included the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations and tent revivals.

"The ministry has always been open to people of all colors," said Deacon Todd. "One goal was to minister to people of African-American descent, while at the same time making other cultures aware of the positive contributions, talents and abilities of African Americans to the church and the world."

In 1996, Deacon Todd was appointed to the U.S. bishops' National Advisory Council and served as a member for four years.

Comprised of clergy, religious and laity, the council meets for four days



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Deacon Curtiss Todd (right), vice chancellor, chats with Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, and Bishop Peter J. Jugis during Deacon Todd's retirement party at the diocesan Pastoral Center May 20.

'I would like ... everyone in the diocese to establish and develop a true and honest relationship with Jesus.'

twice a year to pray, study, deliberate and offer recommendations to the U.S. bishops before their meetings.

Deacon Todd had said that, because the council members did not represent any constituency, they were able to bring "their own backgrounds and opinions and spirituality to the meetings."

The son of a Catholic mother and Episcopalian father, Deacon Todd's early years brought him exposure to both religions, but he was briefly drawn to the Lutheran church after high school.

In his 30s, Deacon Todd studied different denominations, but the seed of Catholicism planted by his mother remained.

"Then I started feeling 'something is missing, something is wrong and I need to do something with my life,'" he said.

He then discovered that the religions he studied had roots back to an individual church leader, not to Christ. His epiphany came when he realized the Catholic Church to be the only religion he could trace directly to Jesus Christ.

"I joined, and went through instructions," said Deacon Todd.

As a permanent deacon, Deacon Todd was recently transferred to St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

"Service, plain and simple, is the call of the diaconate," said Deacon Todd. "It's service to God and the church," but it's not limited to the parish. Service includes the workplace, community and home.

And a strong and true relationship with Jesus is vital to the future of the Catholic Church, he said.

"I would like the church — meaning the people, everyone in the diocese — to establish and develop a true and honest relationship with Jesus," he said, "knowing without a doubt what he would say, think and do in any situation."

"If and when that happens, it will eliminate racism, egotism, self importance and so on," he said. "We would not have any concerns about the church, for it would truly become what Jesus intended it to be."

Among Deacon Todd's fondest memories with the diocese are the friendships he has made and his work as vice chancellor, specifically "being able to do whatever I could to keep the church in compliance with both church law and civil law."

As for the future?

"I plan to take it one day at a time," he said.

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Father Thomas Meehan to celebrate ordination anniversary

Faithful invited to attend Mass, reception

CHARLOTTE — Augustinian Father Thomas Meehan, pastor of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a parish celebration June 12.

The public is invited to celebrate the day with Father Meehan at a 12 p.m. Mass, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Father Meehan was ordained to the priesthood at Our Mother of Good Council Church in Bryn Mawr, Pa., June 14, 1980.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Villanova University in 1974, and earned a Master's of Divinity degree from Washington Theological Union. He professed solemn vows to the Augustinian

Order of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova Dec. 1, 1979.

Father Meehan has served in many capacities, including teacher, principal, assistant pastor, pastor and community prior in Troy, N.Y., and Charlotte.

On March 1, 1998, Father Meehan came to St. John Neumann Church as North Carolina's first Augustinian pastor.

WANT TO GO?

The parish celebration begins with a 12 p.m. Mass followed by a reception. To attend, please call Connie Milligan at (704) 535-4197 or the church office at (704) 536-6520.

Rallying for the rosary



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Four second-graders, dressed in their first Communion clothing, carry a statue of the Virgin Mary down the aisle of St. Patrick Cathedral during the Marian procession at the beginning of the semi-annual Rosary Rally May 22.

Scouts earn Eagle rank



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Eric Houseknecht, pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby and Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain, stands with Matt Gehring (left) and John Reuscher, members of Boy Scout Troop 101 who received their Eagle rank during ceremonies in April and May.

SHELBY — Matt Gehring and John Reuscher, members of Boy Scout Troop 101, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Matt and John, parishioners of St. Mary Church in Shelby and seniors at Shelby High School, received their recognition during ceremonies in April and May. Father Eric Houseknecht, pastor of St. Mary Church and Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain, gave the invocations and closing prayers at the ceremonies.

Both Matt and John earned their rank with separate service projects performed at Crowders Mountain State Park in Kings Mountain to improve park access for handicapped visitors.

Matt refurbished portions of a trail and picnic area near the park's lake, while John refurbished portions of a different trail and the fishing access areas along the lake. Both projects allowed better wheelchair access to the refurbished areas.

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Monstrance blessed by late pope to lead Eucharistic Congress procession in Diocese of Charlotte

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — A monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II to encourage prayers for vocations to the priesthood and religious life during 2005 will be making a stop in the Diocese of Charlotte on its yearlong tour through the United States and Canada.

The papal monstrance, which is an exposition case and stand used to display the Eucharist for adoration, will be carried by Bishop Peter J. Jugis during the procession for the inaugural Eucharistic Congress through uptown Charlotte Saturday morning, Sept. 24.

After the procession, the monstrance will display the Eucharist in a chapel in the Charlotte Convention Center, site of the congress, and will be available for adoration throughout the day.

The night before the congress, Sept. 23, the Eucharist in the monstrance also will be used for nocturnal adoration at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

In addition to the procession, the Eucharistic Congress will feature music and well-known Catholic speakers.

"The goal is to send the monstrance to different dioceses to promote prayer services centered on adoration of the consecrated host," said Father Edward J. Burns, executive director of the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Given by the Vatican to the USCCB, the monstrance will be taken to different U.S. and Canadian dioceses during 2005. Bishop Jugis requested the use of the monstrance for the Eucharistic Congress.

"It's impossible to exaggerate the close relationship between the Eucharist and vocations to priestly life," said Father John Putnam, director of vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"Every vocation is a special grace from God and our greatest source of grace is the Eucharist," said Father Putnam. "The monstrance helps everyone focus on the Eucharist as the principal source of grace from God."

Along with the USCCB, the logistics of the tour schedule are being handled by the USA Council of Serra International, a



COURTESY PHOTO BY USA COUNCIL OF SERRA

During 2005, this monstrance will travel the United States and Canada for use in eucharistic adoration for vocations. Bishop Peter J. Jugis will carry it during the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 23-24.

Catholic organization of laity dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The monstrance is scheduled to arrive in Charlotte in a custom-made case Sept. 22.

The monstrance is one of six blessed by Pope John Paul II in November 2004 to promote Eucharistic adoration during the 2004-2005 Year of the Eucharist. Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific each received a monstrance as a symbol of the connection between the sacrament of the Eucharist and priestly vocations.

The year of the Eucharist began Oct. 17, 2004, and will conclude in October with a world Synod of Bishops in Rome, focusing on the Eucharist as its theme.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

Complete information on the Eucharist Congress can be found online at www.goeucharist.com.

'SACRAMENT OF UNITY'

Vatican ecumenist says sharing Communion means sharing faith

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — The Catholic Church believes the Eucharist is a sacrament that strengthens the unity of the church because those who share Communion profess the same faith, said the Vatican's chief ecumenist.

To say "Amen" and receive Communion means "I fully agree with what has been said and what has been done," said Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Acknowledging the Eucharist as a memorial of Christ's last meal with his disciples is not enough, the cardinal said, responding to questions after a May 19 talk on "The Sacrament of Unity: The Eucharist and the Church."

Cardinal Kasper's talk at the Atonement Friars' Centro Pro Unione in Rome was drawn largely from his new book of the same title.

Saying "Amen" means acknowledging Christ's real presence in the Eucharist and the sacrificial value of the Eucharist for the forgiveness of sins and the transformation of the world, the cardinal said, but it also means accepting that the Eucharist is celebrated in communion with the pope and united with the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.

Because complete agreement between Catholics and other Christians is lacking on one or more of the points of faith, eucharistic sharing is permitted only in limited circumstances and usually requires the approval of the local bishop, Cardinal Kasper said.

The restrictions the Catholic Church places on Christians receiving the Eucharist at each other's services, he said, "are not external disciplinary decisions of the church," but the logical consequences of saying "Amen."

"We do not invite all Catholics (to Communion) either," he said.

Those who are in a state of sin or who cannot answer yes to the question "Does your life correspond to what is celebrated here?" are asked not to receive, he said.

"Ecumenism is not a political, diplomatic or purely pragmatic undertaking," he said. "It is primarily a spiritual concern," a matter of all Christians converting to deeper faith in Jesus, being open to the call of the Holy Spirit and, finally, being able to express full unity in faith by sharing the Eucharist.

"The point of ecumenical dialogue is not that we should abandon our own identity but that we should let it be purified, grow and mature," he said.

Church unity, the cardinal said, does not mean church uniformity, but neither does it mean accepting contradictory positions.

"The goal of this development is a unity that unambiguously excludes contradictions, but regards a plurality of cultures, languages, rites, customs and theologies in the church not as a defect, but as a valued treasure," he said.

Cardinal Kasper said Protestants are not the only Christians who must delve deeper into the meaning and importance of the Eucharist in order to make eucharistic sharing possible. Many Catholics, too, need to recover their awareness of the sacrificial meaning of the Eucharist, he said.

"The world in which we live is not whole and happy: Our reality is marked by conflicts, where unity has been impaired and ruptured and people cry out for healing and reconciliation," he said.

Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples on the eve of his suffering and death not as a fraternal farewell, but to underline the connection between the meal and the sacrifice of his life for the reconciliation of humanity with God, the cardinal said.

"It is only the sacrificial character" of the Last Supper that "explains how the Mass is a fellowship meal," he said.

It is through sharing the blood of Christ that men and women become brothers and sisters; "hence, sacrifice and unity belong together," he said.

"The sacrificial character preserves the Eucharist from banal trivialization, and only this dimension gives the Eucharist its true depth: For in this world — deformed as it is by sin — unity and peace cannot be achieved along any other path than that of forgiveness," Cardinal Kasper said.

The cardinal also said that Catholics must recognize that "the Eucharist as sacrament of unity is not possible without the sacrament of forgiveness, the sacrament of penance."

The Gospel calls believers to seek reconciliation with one another before approaching God, acknowledging that sin not only offends God, but sets one outside the community of believers and weakens the community, he said.

NOTE TO READERS

Father Matthew Buettner's column, "Understanding the Mystery of the Mass," will return.

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Something to jig about



COURTESY PHOTO

Rince na h'Eireann's Junior Mixed (boys and girls) Ceili team achieved fourth place at the World Championships dance competition in Ireland March 20-27.

Charlotte dancers earn world championship titles

CHARLOTTE — Among its many accolades, Charlotte can now declare itself the home of several of the newest world champions of traditional Irish dance.

Charlotte's School of Traditional Irish Dance, Rince na h'Eireann, sent 29 dancers to Ennis, County Clare, Ireland to compete in the World Championships March 20-27. The dancers represented both Charlotte and the United States while competing against more than 4,000 other world qualifiers representing more than 20 countries.

Patrick Quinlivan earned the United States' highest placing medal in his competition, finishing fourth among 47 world qualifiers in the Boys (15-16) category.

Pierce Beach received top honors with a 16th place finish in the Men's (16-17) event.

Because of their performances, both young men will compete at the 2006 World Championships in Belfast, Ireland, next spring. Both also will represent their school and city at the North American

Nationals in Nashville, Tenn., in July.

In the team categories, also earning one of the highest ranking U.S. finishes, Rince na h'Eireann's Junior Mixed (boys & girls) Ceili achieved fourth place. The school qualified four teams to compete at this World Championship, an unprecedented number for the competition usually dominated by wins from overseas competitors.

Rince na h'Eireann, which translates to "Dance of Ireland," was founded by Sandra Connick, a native of County Cork, Ireland. Connick, who has worked with the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic school system, has worked with cultural enrichment programs in Mecklenburg County schools and currently lectures on Irish dance at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

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PEACE, JUSTICE AND LUNCH

Just Second Fridays brings speakers on social justice to downtown Charlotte

BY JOSEPH PURELLO

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Even in the midst of a busy workday, it is still possible to add a side of justice to your lunch.

Just Second Fridays, a lunchtime speaker series held the second Friday of each month in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, covers a variety of topics on justice, peace and business ethics. The program is a partnership of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services and St. Peter Church.

The program aims to develop, in the hearts and minds of attendees, a rhythm of being engaged in theological and ethical exploration, reflection and discussion of a variety of social justice concerns.

Participation will hopefully lead to greater advocacy on behalf of justice and new or renewed direct action in the lives of those who are marginalized and threatened in society.

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, hoped "the education received from those who attend will lead and inspire the faithful to act more deeply and more often for justice in their community."

"Therefore, the ultimate benefits of this program are fruits that will be given and received long past the actual date and

time of participation," he said.

The program's concept was inspired by Jesuit Father Fred Kammer's "Doing Faithjustice," a book that discusses the intimate connection between justice and faith as developed in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Father Kammer states "the single word forged of the two concepts undercuts those who would elevate one concept over the other, render one instrumental to the other, separate the two, or otherwise downplay the importance of one."

Just Second Fridays events are scheduled to encourage the attendance of people of all ages, many of whom would not be able to attend such an event at night or on a weekend.

Upcoming topics at summer lectures include "Debt as a Moral Issue — International and U.S. Perspectives," "Overcoming Workplace Barriers" and "The Catholic Church's Teaching on End of Life Issues."

Joseph Purello is director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Just Second Fridays, see the advertisement below or visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace. Young adults who work in downtown Charlotte are encouraged to attend.

The Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services,
in partnership with St. Peter Catholic Church

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June through September, 2005

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

JUST SECOND FRIDAYS is a lunchtime speaker series that seeks to develop in the hearts and minds of attendees a rhythm of being regularly engaged in the study and discussion of a variety of social justice issues and concerns. All JSF events take place in the Atrium Room of the Annex Building of St. Peter Catholic Church (507 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte). JSF events begin at 1:00 PM and end at 2:00 PM. Doors open at 12:30 PM. Sandwiches and cold drinks are provided (donation requested) or bring your own lunch.

June 10 "Debt as a Moral Issue - International and U.S Perspectives," presented by Sr. Mary Schmuck, RSM, Director of Parish Social Ministry, Rural Ministry Center, Archdiocese of Louisville, KY.

July 8 "Overcoming Workplace Barriers - Goodwill Industries' Mission to Empower and Employ those with Disabilities," presented by Mr. Thomas Barrett, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont, Charlotte, NC.

Aug. 12 "The Catholic Church's Teaching on End of Life Ethics," presented by Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Department of Philosophy, Fordham University, Bronx, NY.

Sept. 9 "Bringing a Catholic Voice to a National Dialogue on Health Care Reform," presented by Dr. Jack Glaser, Senior Vice President, Theology and Ethics, St. Joseph Health System, Orange, CA.



Questions? Contact the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS,
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Centered on God

Ancient prayer practice taught at workshop

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In the early days of the Christian church, contemplative prayer was commonly practiced. Following the Protestant Reformation, this spiritual tradition, an ancient way of knowing God through love in silence, was virtually abandoned.

In the past 30 years, contemplative, or centering, prayer has been revived. Three Trappist monks — Abbot Thomas Keating, Father William Meninger and Father Basil Pennington — distilled ancient centering prayer practices into a simple method of prayer.

St. Ann Church recently hosted a one-day workshop on centering prayer. Paul Supina and John Kelsey, members of Contemplative Outreach Network, presented instruction in the tradition and method of centering prayer at the workshop May 14.

"Centering prayer is a method of prayer that prepares us to receive God's presence in stillness," said Bill Cahill, a parishioner of St. Ann Church who has been practicing centering prayer for more than 35 years.

Cahill attended the workshop along with more than a dozen people from a variety of faith traditions, including Catholic, Lutheran and Episcopalian.

"Those attending the workshop enjoyed the simplicity and silence of the prayer," said Cahill.

Another participant said the workshop was ecumenical in nature and most fulfilling, because "normally one says prayers. In this practice, prayer finds you."

"Centering prayer is based in Catholic monastic prayer," said Father Conrad Hoover, pastor of St. Ann Church.

It is drawn from ancient prayer practices of the Christian contemplative heritage, notably those of St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila and others.

Centering prayer consists of four steps: choose a sacred word as the symbol of the intention to consent to God's presence and action within; sit comfortably with eyes closed and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within; when engaged with thoughts, return gently to the sacred word; at the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

"Though we think of prayer as thoughts or feeling expressed in words, this is only one expression," as stated on the Contemplative Outreach Network Web site. "Contemplative prayer is a prayer of silence, an experience of God's



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Centering prayer is drawn from ancient prayer practices of the Christian contemplative heritage, notably those of St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila and others.

presence as the ground in which our being is rooted, the source from whom our life emerges at every moment."

According to the Web site, "Christian contemplative prayer is the opening of mind and heart — our whole being — to God, the 'Ultimate Mystery,' beyond thoughts, words and emotions, whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing — closer than consciousness itself."

"Each person's spiritual practice is a unique journey with God, and it changes from year to year," said Cahill. "Center-

ing prayer allows a special sense of God's grace to be in one's life."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on centering prayer, visit www.centeringprayer.com. A centering prayer group is being organized at St. Ann Church in Charlotte. Those interested in participating should call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

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- ♦ Saint Mark Catholic School (K-8)
14750 Stumptown Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
- ♦ St. Matthew Catholic School (TK-5)
11525 Elm Lane
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- ♦ Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School (6-8)
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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Charlotte Catholic chapel dedicated by bishop

CHAPEL, from page 1

closed-circuit television.

The 300-seat chapel was completed in 2004 after nearly two years of construction and will be used for Mass, daily prayer services, worship and reconciliation.

The school's previous chapel had proven too small to meet the school's needs. When Augustinian Father Jim Cassidy, now pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, was principal of Charlotte Catholic, he envisioned a larger chapel that would accommodate a few hundred students.

During the Mass, students, alumnae, former principals and diocesan leadership watched as Bishop Jugis blessed the chapel with holy water, holy chrism oil and incense, "to signify the superabundant grace and holiness of the sacrifice of Christ."

Bishop Jugis said Jesus Christ is perpetually at the center of life in the chapel.

"Everything flows from the altar, and flows back to the altar," said Bishop Jugis. "Here is the heart ... the spiritual

center of this community."

Bishop Jugis noted the chapel's prominent position at the front entrance of the school, thereby signifying the prominence of Christ in the students' lives.

Bishop Jugis said he depends on young people to push forward with enthusiasm for Christ and the Catholic Church.

"You are to be spiritual altars, offering the sacrifice of a holy life in your language, behavior and attitude," the bishop told the students. "United to Christ, you can all become spiritual altars."

Following the dedication Mass, Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, unveiled a plaque outside the chapel dedicating the chapel in honor of Constance Keffer. Keffer and her husband, Dick, are the parents of four Charlotte Catholic graduates.

Principal Jerry Healy said he hopes the chapel will make Charlotte Catholic High School a better place for all its students.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sara Stowell and Leann Presley, Charlotte Catholic seniors, assist with the dressing of the altar after Bishop Jugis anointed it with chrism oil during the dedication Mass.

Thinking outside the box



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the Odyssey of the Mind middle school team from St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, who came in third place in their division at the Odyssey of the Mind state finals at Appalachian University April 9. The team celebrated a first-place win at Wake Forest University in March. For the last six years, St. Leo the Great School students have been among the thousands of teams from throughout the United States and 25 other countries to participate in the program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities. Contestants apply creativity to solve problems, which range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretations of literary classics, at local, state and world levels.

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Committed to excellence

IHM School unveils new Web site

HIGH POINT — After many months of hard work, the Community Relations Committee at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point has unveiled a redesigned school Web site.

The committee was formed last summer by Principal Wanda Garrett with the goal of creating and maintaining a multiphase public relations program.

During this academic year, the committee created the Web site and began work on a long-term marketing plan.

It also publishes the monthly school newsletter, "The Eagle Eye"; conducts a media relations program; creates magazine advertisements promoting the school; sponsored a school-wide tagline contest; created a Parent Resource

Guide; organized an open house and instituted a "get-to-know-us" project among area realtors, chambers of commerce and visitors' centers.

The committee has received assistance in their projects from non-members, as well.

"It never ceases to amaze me how talented the parents of this school community are and how generous they are with their gifts," said Debby Davis, chairperson. "This year's accomplishments have truly been a group effort."

WANT MORE INFO?

The new school Web site can be found at www.ihm-school.com.

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with

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Chris & Michelle Benzinger

Saturday June 04, 2005

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Procession Begins

8:30 a.m.

Adoration & Exposition

10:00 a.m.

Homilist

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman

Introductory Remarks

10:45 a.m.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory

General Track

11:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
with

Alex Jones
Jeff Cavins
Alan Ames
Tom Monaghan
Jim Caviezel
and the Family of
Terri Schindler-Schiavo

Also included
at the 2005
Eucharistic Congress
in Atlanta:

Hispanic Track
Teen Track
Kid Track
Vietnamese Track
Deaf Track

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5:30 p.m.

Principal Celebrant
Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory

Concelebrants:
Archbishop-emeritus
John F. Donoghue
Bishop Robert J. Baker
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FROM THE COVER

North Carolinians help students, villagers in Nicaragua

MISSION, from page 1

they got musical instruments: kazoos and recorders. They also received craft items so they can make beaded bracelets and bookmarks to sell.

"We ask (via e-mail) before we go what she needs and each packs an extra suitcase with supplies," Priest said.

At the new hospital they dropped off over-the-counter medications such as prenatal vitamins, child and adult multivitamins, Tylenol and diabetes test kits.

Indeed, there is much the hospital doesn't have: no intensive care unit, no equipment in the operating room, no monitors at the nurses' stations.

It was Somotillo's needs that Maryknoll Sister Joan Uhlen spoke about at St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches during a visit in 2003. Father George Kloster, pastor of both churches, had met her some years earlier. While pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, that parish had become a sister community to Leon, Nicaragua, near Somotillo.

After Sister Uhlen's visit, the two parishes formed the Somotillo Committee: Susan Haley, chair; Priest, Otte, Sister Martin, Mary Colabella and Mike Regner. Committee members visit Somotillo every spring and fall to take supplies to the community and assess its needs.

St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches' fundraising events provide the money.

Life in Somotillo

Somotillo, a city of 30,000 near the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, has public schools that require the students to wear uniforms — white shirts and dark blue slacks or skirts — and arrive at 7:30 a.m.

For the poorest children, however, uniforms are out of reach. Many children are their families' sole support and cannot get to school that early.

They shine shoes or wash truck tires muddied by the region's mostly unpaved roads.

San Ignacio Primary School, grades one through eight, was created for them.

"In the third grade, more than half the children work before and after school," Priest said. "Some go to the Honduran border to sell oranges, shine shoes and, sadly for some, prostitution."



COURTESY PHOTO

Teachers at the agricultural school in Somotillo, Nicaragua, celebrate the birthday of Sister Rachel Penal (back row, center). Joining in are Joan Otte (back row, left) and Sister Terry Martin (back row, right) of the Somotillo Committee of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches.

"One of the first-grade girls we met gets up at 4:30 a.m. to make and sell 80-plus tortillas before school," she said. "The teachers say she often sleeps through some of the day."

Unlike the public school, San Ignacio doesn't require uniforms and has morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate its working students. It's considered a private school because it gets much of its support from sources such as the Somotillo Committee, although teachers' salaries are paid by the Nicaraguan government: \$90 and a bag of food monthly for each teacher.

In addition to the academic curriculum, students learn life skills: baking and gardening in the school's kitchen and garden. The principal, Marling Lainz, told the Somotillo Committee that other schools are beginning to imitate San Ignacio.

However, there are still many needs. The 187 students have no textbooks, no playground equipment in the barely grassed schoolyard, where the children eat their lunches.

Over at the day-care center, where children ages 1 to 6 are cared for from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., there is now safety

fencing of a sort.

"Sister Terry, Joan and I left \$80 for gates to be installed at all the doorways to prevent the children from wandering into the street or out in the yard near an open well," Priest said. "We left several puppets, but still there are not enough toys for infants and preschoolers."

Growing changes

When Sister Uhlen spoke to parishioners in western North Carolina, she was dreaming of an agricultural school. She died in February 2004, shortly after Jesus Rios Andrade was hired as principal of the new agricultural school.

Sister Penal, who had worked with her for several years, has stayed on.

Independent of government assistance, the school operates on donations and fund-raising projects.

"The tuition is 8 córdobas a month (about 50 cents)," Priest said. "Those parents who cannot afford the tuition will come and do work at the school. All parents are required to do two days of work a year at the school. Some donate rice and beans."

The Somotillo Committee helps the agricultural school financially.

"Our scholarship donations help pay for tuition, registration, uniforms, teachers' salaries, supplies, maintenance, lunch, photocopies (there are no textbooks)," Priest said.

"Some students live as far as 17 miles from school. Teachers and students walk, ride bicycles or horses to school; 80 percent of the students walk to school," she said. "Currently a few teachers and eight long-distance students are boarding at the school. There are three small rooms with metal bunk bed cots."

Priest said the goal of the agricultural school is to teach students how to raise and produce food for themselves and their families and for the lunch program.

"Anything left over they will sell," she said. "Jesus, the teachers and students have proven that they can produce a diversity of crops."

Parents are learning, too.

"The parents are encouraged to come watch, learn and try these same methods at home," Priest said. "The school provides the seed and follows up on progress at the students' homes."

"They are trying to grow mostly organic foods," she said. "They are trying to change the mindset of local farmers who believe that only by using chemicals will they be able to grow good crops."

Priest, who teaches language arts to fifth graders at Hayesville Middle School, is most impressed with "the passion and dedication of the teachers."

"This is where you can see it's for the love of what they do, there're no other rewards, and then to see what the kids have to do to get to school," she said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

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FROM THE COVER

Schiavo's parents meet pope at end of his general audience

SCHIAVO, from page 1

sented him with a framed gift featuring two pictures of Schiavo and the Prayer of St. Francis.

The pope exchanged a few words with the couple, and an aide took the gift.

Meeting the pope and shaking his hand "was totally overwhelming," said Bob Schindler.

"There's an electricity that goes right through you," he told Catholic News Service May 19.

At the end of his weekly general audiences, Pope Benedict greets audience members who are seated in two special sections near his chair. The Schindlers were seated along the barricade in the front row of one of the sections.

Schindler said the framed gift they gave the pope contained "memorial photos of Terri and the Prayer of St. Francis, which was one of Terri's favorite prayers." The prayer begins, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

He said the pope "recognized Terri and said her name. He was very gracious."

The Schindlers traveled to Rome "to express our gratitude to the Vatican for all it had done" in helping speak out in defense of their daughter's right to life.

Schiavo died March 31, nearly two weeks after a court ordered her feeding tube to be disconnected. She had been in what doctors defined as a persistent vegetative state since 1990.

On May 17, the Schindlers met with Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, who had spoken out against the U.S.

courts' decisions not to allow the reinsertion of Schiavo's feeding tube. He had called it "an unjust death sentence of an innocent person."

In his meeting with the couple, Cardinal Martino reiterated his condemnation of "the killing of this woman in one of the most inhumane and cruel ways, through hunger and thirst," according to a written statement released May 17 by the council.

The statement said the Schindlers "expressed their appreciation to the cardinal for making bold efforts to save the life of their daughter" who was "practically condemned to die by the U.S. courts on the petition of the woman's husband."

Terri Schiavo's husband, Michael Schiavo, wanted the feeding tube removed, saying it was what his wife would have wanted. However, the Schindlers fought a seven-year legal battle with Michael Schiavo over the right to make medical decisions for her.

Schindler told CNS that they asked the Vatican to help them in their continuing crusade against euthanasia.

"We set up a foundation for Terri five years ago to help her, but now we want it to continue so that we can help others and make sure this never happens again," he said.

Through their Web site, www.terrisfight.org, the Schindler family said it hopes to create a sort of clearinghouse or "consumer advocacy" site that people can use to receive help with cases similar to Schiavo's.

Schindler said the massive media attention paid to his daughter's plight put a previously unknown dilemma in the public eye.

"People had been unaware dehydration and starvation is commonly happen-



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Terri Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, walk in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 18. The Schindlers met briefly with Pope Benedict XVI at the end of his general audience and presented him with a gift of framed photos of their daughter Terri, who died March 31, after a Florida court ordered her feeding tube be removed.

ing" throughout the United States as a way to bring about the death of some patients determined to be in persistent vegetative states, he said.

Schindler said the Vatican officials they spoke to offered their assistance in "helping to theologically interpret a case."

"We need the support of the church and all religious denominations in re-educating people" about the sanctity of all human life, Schindler said.

The Schindlers were accompanied on their trip to Rome and the Vatican by Anthony DeStefano, executive director of Priests for Life, which Schindler said "partially sponsored" the family's trip.

In their meeting with Cardinal Martino, the Schindlers were accompanied by members of the Missionaries of

the Gospel of Life, a new society of apostolic life based in Amarillo, Texas.

The justice and peace council statement said that representatives of the group were to present the Holy See with the statutes of the new society of priests, deacons, brothers and seminarians that promotes pro-life ministry.

The statement said Cardinal Martino "encouraged the initiatives of the new association for the defense of human life from conception to its natural end."

It said he noted that the threat to human life is found not only in abortion and euthanasia, "but also in the death penalty, war, terrorism, the destruction or manipulation of human embryos, decimation caused by famines or devastation of the environment."

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Pope says brutality must be remembered to keep current, future peace

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — History's most brutal and oppressive events, including Nazi Germany's aggression, must be remembered so as to help guide future generations along the path toward peace and reconciliation, said Pope Benedict XVI.

"We have a duty to remind ourselves, especially young people, of what forms of unheard-of violence can be reached," the pope said after a public screening of a film based on Karol Wojtyla's life in Nazi-occupied, then communist-ruled Poland.

Together with some 6,000 guests, Pope Benedict watched the made-for-TV movie, "Karol: The Man Who Became Pope," in the Vatican's Paul VI hall May 19, the day after Pope John Paul II would have celebrated his 85th birthday.

The special, invitation-only screening was held less than two weeks after the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, which put an end to "that huge tragedy that sowed destruction and death in Europe and the world," said Pope Benedict.

The Italian-made film portrays the late pontiff's early life, starting with Nazi Germany's 1939 invasion of Poland, followed by the communist repression of his homeland and ending with his election as pope at the Vatican in 1978.

The movie was based on the Vatican-approved book, "Stories of Karol: The Unknown Life of John Paul II," written by Gian Franco Svidercoschi.

In his May 19 address to audience members at the film's conclusion, the German-born pope noted the "atrocious crimes" that revealed "all the evil wrapped up inside the Nazi ideology."

He said the film created emotionally charged scenes that recalled "the repression of the Polish people and the genocide of the Jews."

Born in Bavaria in 1927, Pope Benedict grew up in Germany during the time of the Nazis' rise to power and witnessed their expanding grip over other nations and peoples.

While he was a seminarian, school officials enrolled him in the Hitler Youth program; he soon stopped going to meetings.

He was drafted in 1943 and served for a year in an anti-aircraft unit that tracked Allied bombardments. At the end of the war he spent time in a U.S. prisoner-of-war camp.

In his speech, Pope Benedict asked what other than a "providential divine plan" would bring to the papacy a Pole followed by a German whose country attacked its neighbors — including Poland — with the "great virulence" of the



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI and invited guests watch the movie "Karol: The Man Who Became Pope" at the Vatican May 19.

Nazi regime.

Pope Benedict said that in their youth he and Pope John Paul "had to know the savagery of the Second World War and the insane violence of men against men, of peoples against peoples."

"Over the passage of time, memories must not fade; rather they must serve as serious lessons" for people now and for future generations, said Pope Benedict.

Watching the cruel and violent scenes in the movie "Karol" makes one "reflect on the abysses of wickedness that can hide in the human soul," he said.

But at the same time, it should also trigger the desire in every "righteous person" to feel the urge to do everything possible to keep such "inhumane savagery" from ever happening again, he said.

Let such reflections prompt people into dedicating themselves to help bring "peace in Europe and the whole world," he added.

Vatican press spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Pope John Paul had seen the two-and-a-half-hour film in its entirety in a private viewing before his death April 2.

Navarro-Valls said the late pope "was very impressed" with the film's portrayal and "appreciated (the inclusion of) many scenes" from that period in his life.

The made-for-TV movie had been shown in a two-part series on Italian television April 18-19, the same two days the College of Cardinals were in a conclave and elected Pope Benedict.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 5, 2005

June 5, Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Hosea 6:3-6
Psalm 50:1,8, 12-13, 14-15
- 2) Romans 4:18-25
- 3) Matthew 9:9-13

We possess the hands of compassion

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The gift bag is perched on the table next to the paper plate of cake and ice cream, and a sweating plastic cup of red punch. From a thicket of tissue paper a bottle of bath oil gleams, next to it a tube of skin cream.

A stuffed animal of indeterminate species peeks coyly over the top.

The wheelchair-bound woman at the table grins girlishly when the nurse's aide pushes the gift bag close enough to explore the contents. Nearby, other residents of the center wait, with varying levels of anticipation, as the volunteer birthday crew distributes cake and ice cream and punch.

Everyone sings "Happy Birthday" to

the honoree. The leader of the volunteers stands next to her, one arm on her shoulder, the other guiding her hands to pull the gifts from the bag.

With intense concentration she bends down to enthuse over each of the small treasures and listens carefully to the woman's response.

A less-seasoned volunteer watches in wonder as his mentor tends to the frail, elderly woman in the wheelchair. He marvels at the quality of the care he witnesses, the attentiveness of the listening, the gentleness of the hand-holding.

When, after 20 minutes or so, the old woman is wheeled back to bed, spent from the exertion of the party, he notices her beatifically happy smile and knows that he has just witnessed the mercy of God.

Sunday's Gospel, with its story of Jesus seeking out sinners and outcasts, calls his followers to do the same. As he reminds his pious and judgmental critics of the prophetic insight about God's preference for mercy and compassion rather than letter-perfect religious practice, we are reminded to be aware of those who are abandoned, forgotten, scorned.

We are called to reach out the hand of companionship and friendship.

Questions:

What opportunities is your life giving you to exercise mercy to those in need? Who are the outsiders in your parish, and what is one way you might reach out to include them?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 29-JUNE 4

Sunday (The Body and Blood of Christ), Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; **Monday**, Tobit 1:3; 2:1-8, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday (The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 1:39-56; **Wednesday (St. Justin)**, Tobit 3:1-11, 16-17, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter)**, Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1, 9-14; 8:4-9, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday (Most Sacred Heart of Jesus)**, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary)**, Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20, Tobit 13:2, 6, Luke 2:41-51.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 5-11

Sunday (Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Hosea 6:3-6, Romans 4:18-25, Matthew 9:9-13; **Monday (St. Norbert)**, 2 Corinthians 1:1-7, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Ephrem)**, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Mark 5:13-16; **Wednesday**, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, 2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1, 3-6, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday**, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday (St. Barnabas)**, Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:33-37.

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'Cinderella Man' is a knockout



CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL

Russell Crowe and Paul Giamatti star in "Cinderella Man," a moving true-life story of James Braddock, a Depression-era boxer (Crowe in top form) who — after several years out of the ring — took up fighting again to support his wife and children, and against all odds made a tremendous comeback. Director Ron Howard has made an absorbing film with first-rate performances and authentic period flavor; the boxing sequences are far less graphic than similarly themed films, and the human story of Jimmy's devotion to his family is paramount. Much period profanity, some crude language, ring violence with blood. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'Ninth Day' director says chance to helm film 'like a call' from God

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Volker Schlöndorff, who directed the World War II drama "The Ninth Day," said that being offered the opportunity to direct the film was "like a call" from God similar to his understanding in high school he was meant to make movies.

"The Ninth Day" is the fictional tale of a Luxembourg priest who is released from the Nazis' Dachau concentration camp in Germany in 1942; thousands of clergymen were imprisoned in barracks there.

But the priest learns his release is just a nine-day furlough to return home so he can try to convince his bishop to drop his resistance to the Nazi occupation.

While fictional in content, the story is based on a real-life priest, Father Jean Bernard, who kept a journal of his time in Dachau. Father Bernard himself was released for nine days to return to Luxembourg, but he never wrote anything about this period of freedom.

Father Bernard was returned to Dachau and was released from the camp upon its liberation by the Allies. Free once more, he resumed his leadership role in the International Catholic Organization for Cinema and Audiovisuals — now part of what is known today as Signis — and served the group until 1972.

He was made a bishop in 1955 and died in Luxembourg in 1994.

The prisoner number assigned to Father Bernard in Dachau became part of the title of his book of life under Nazism, "Priest Block 25487." It is also the number given to the movie's fictional priest, Father Henri Kremer.

While the nine days of leave the priest was given is accurate, Schlöndorff said he would have used that figure in the title anyway because it ties in to the

novena, a nine-day series of prayers.

He said his priest-protagonist was tempted to let down his own resistance to the Nazis.

"Who could have known that the will to obey was greater than the will to live?" Schlöndorff said.

"The Ninth Day" is a "quietly compelling" movie and "a powerful film that deserves recognition at Oscar time," said David DiCerto of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting in his review.

"The picture is an intelligent and emotionally forceful meditation on faith, redemption and the cost of true discipleship," DiCerto added. It is classified A-III — adults by the bishops' film office. It is not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Schlöndorff credits the Jesuits who taught him in France during his high school years with helping him discover his vocation as a filmmaker.

Schlöndorff was born a Protestant, "but they didn't try to convert me," he said of the Jesuits. Still, "I had my daughter baptized (a Catholic) and (had her) make her first Communion. And I go with her to church" in Berlin, where they live, he said. "I have never converted, but still, somehow, I consider myself a Catholic."

Asked about the German-born Pope Benedict XVI, Schlöndorff told CNS, "He is a very intelligent man. I have enjoyed reading his interviews for years and years, though I really don't agree with his conservative views. But if the church isn't conservative, it isn't really a church anymore."

He added, "I know that I would not want to be in his shoes."

FROM THE COVER

Pope places distinctive mark on papacy

POPE, from page 1

Pope John Paul II's team of Vatican officials. But in his first major appointment, he picked an American, Archbishop William J. Levada of San Francisco, as his successor at the doctrinal congregation — a bold move that gratified many U.S. Catholics and lessened European influence in the Roman Curia.

In waiving the five-year waiting period for the start of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause, the pope showed he was listening to the popular voice of the church and recognized that rules are sometimes made to be set aside.

Two other decisions hinted at Pope Benedict's governing style:

— He opted not to preside at beatification liturgies, ending a 34-year practice. Although papal beatifications had become routine, the pope and others thought they created misunderstandings about the sainthood process.

— He shortened the October Synod of Bishops. In the past, the pope had said synods tend to exalt the role of bishops as delegates of local churches rather than as shepherds of their own flocks.

Back to basics

The pope's decisions and talks since his election April 19 seemed to show a desire to pare back to the essentials — at least as much as possible for a 21st-century pope.

At the same time, Pope Benedict understands that in many ways he is expected to be a "pope for all people."

In his first month, he spoke with

various heads of state, international diplomats, Christian and non-Christian representatives, journalists, bishops from Africa and Asia, members of Rome's Catholic community, clergy, curial officials, pilgrim groups from around the world and, of course, the College of Cardinals.

At his weekly general audiences, the pope has grown increasingly relaxed with big crowds. He seems to genuinely enjoy riding his open jeep around the square, standing and waving as he holds onto a bar with one hand.

After his first general audience, the pope shook the hands of nearby bishops and left the scene.

Now he makes it a point to seek out the sick and lay people who have come for a personal blessing or to bring him gifts. He doesn't rush and usually has a few words for each.

The new pope's reception has been overwhelmingly positive. Many visitors are impressed by his easy and direct style, others by the simple fact that the church once again has a pope who can move through a crowd or improvise a talk.

Pope Benedict's talks and sermons have not been the high theology of books and conferences. Instead, he has focused on the basics during his first month: the church's evangelizing mission, the danger of losing sight of God and the priority of human life issues in modern society.

On several occasions, particularly around the feast of Pentecost, he has explained the church's purpose by recalling the words and witness of apostolic times. Even his nonliturgical talks,

like his address to Sri Lankan bishops, have been built around passages from the New Testament.

Simple but effective

The pope has not dumbed down his message.

His sermon on Pentecost, for example, examined the relationship of human freedom, the gift of the law on Mount Sinai, the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the church's mission and the Eucharist. But woven through the homily were straightforward statements about people's real limitations and the recognition that faith is often a struggle.

"We continually close our doors; we continually want to feel secure and do not want to be disturbed by others and by God," the pope said.

But Christ will come for us, he said, just as he passed through the closed doors to reach his disciples at Pentecost.

Likewise, on the feast of the Ascension, he offered a simple reflection on Christ's continued presence in the world, saying: "The Lord is always within hearing. We can inwardly draw away from him. We can live turning our backs on him. But he always waits for us and is always close to us."

Christ's tools

So far, Pope Benedict has spoken mostly about the essentials of church life and relatively little about contemporary social issues. Appeals for victims of disasters or violence, which made for easy



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses the faithful May 22 at the Vatican. Reflecting on the Trinity the pope said that "God is not solitude but perfect communion."

headlines under Pope John Paul, seem to have disappeared.

The new pope is also meeting with fewer groups, especially from Italy such meetings used to fill the calendar of his predecessors. And so far he does not seem to feel the need to send messages or give speeches to participants of every meeting at the Vatican.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The hot media topic today: religion

More to report than what media sees

I was happy in mid-April to pick up a new book by Joan Wester Anderson, a good friend I long have called "the angel lady." She titled this one "In the Arms of Angels, True Stories of Heavenly Guardians."

It was comforting to read more stories of amazing events that certainly appear to have unearthly origins.

For me, reading stories of how God never abandons us was timely. It seemed that media — from daily newspapers to TV stories to magazines that rarely have run religion reports — constantly were covering some aspect of religious news. Even Broadway shows and art museums were zeroing in on religious themes.

Some of the programs were done well, like one on NBC delving into "The DaVinci Code." That book has opened incredible speculation about what really happened during the life of Jesus Christ. The sales of this book, which claims that Mary Magdalene and Jesus were married and had a child, are off the chart.

The NBC program pointed out the fraud of this claim about Jesus and showed who dreamt it up. But the lie is rampant, and while I believe truth eventually will win, I don't think it will be soon.

The program that followed on NBC was "Revelations," called "a creepy thriller" about the war between good and evil. Advance publicity indicated that the show would be in the realm of the "Left Behind" novels dealing with the "end times," as supposedly written about in the Book of Revelation.

Not long ago I was on a radio program discussing my book about how Jesus has shaped my life. A man called in and challenged me, saying I should be talking about how the "warrior Jesus" was coming back to earth to destroy those who do not follow him.

I said I believed in the "loving Jesus."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



He countered, "Don't you believe in Revelation and the second coming of Christ?"

Yet another religious development — "roadside religious attractions" — was reported by Professor Timothy K. Beal in the April 15 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. This is a relatively new sign of "revelation" fervor.

He cited the "Cross Garden" in Alabama, "11 acres of fire-and-brimstone preaching crosses and apocalyptic appliances" as one example of encountering "faith in all its awesome absurdity."

No wonder I needed to read about comforting angels!

In her new book, Anderson tells a story of a teen-ager who read that Pope John Paul II would ask angels to surround a person in distress with aid or love in order to help calm the person. Then later, the teen, watching a news story about a woman threatening to jump off a bridge, said he followed the pope's example: "I sent angels to that woman."

Within 10 minutes, the distraught woman relaxed and walked into the welcoming arms of her family.

Our pope had just gone to his beloved Lord Jesus when I read this. Again, the media were focused on religion, but this time with respect.

Looking at the faith, the love, the teaching he lived, how could they do otherwise?

What does it take to understand the Bible?

Q. You often answer questions about the Bible, and I find them interesting. I'd like to learn a lot more, but sometimes I feel reading the Bible isn't that good for me since I'm certainly not an expert. There must be many more like me.

I like to read part of the New Testament every day. But how does an ordinary person, without a lot of education about the Bible, know he's getting out of it what he should? (Ohio)

A. First, I'm pleased you have the Bible as part of your everyday prayer life. St. Jerome, possibly the most noted Scripture scholar and translator in the history of the church, wrote once, "To live in the atmosphere of these holy books, to think about them constantly ..., is this not to live in the kingdom of heaven already, here on earth?"

That's what you're trying to do. Don't stop.

Jerome, who lived in the fourth century, gave a good answer to your question in a letter to one of his friends. Don't be put off reading the Scriptures by the language or other difficulties, he said.

Whatever those problems may be, "whoever comes along can find instruction so that, in one and the same sentence, both the learned and the ignorant can find plain meaning" (Letter to Paulinus).

What Jerome means is that reading Scripture in a spirit of faith and openness to God's word is always spiritually profitable. In fact, anyone who approaches the Bible with this attitude reaps far more benefits than one who has a lot of expert knowledge, but little faith.

In the Scriptures, God always speaks to us with intimate personal tenderness, love and power.

This does not deny that at least a little information about the background of the Bible and its individual books can make their reading more beneficial, and prevent much misunderstanding and confusion.

Very little of the Bible, for example, is straightforward history as we think of it. Every book is colored by the people who wrote it, when they wrote, the conditions of their culture and so on.

Most of it is a combination of a multitude of literary forms — poetry, parables, personal or community reflections on memorable events, legal documents, visions and other manifestations of God's influence over human events, prophecies — and, finally, the divinely inspired insights of the biblical writers who put together these revelations and experiences in the form we have them today.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



In addition, all of what is now in the Bible was handed down by writing or word of mouth during a period of thousands of years. It is therefore an advantage to know some of the circumstances of the time, what their customs were, what words meant.

A parallel might be a 1971 magazine being read today by a high school freshman. Without some knowledge of those times, the meaning and implications of terms like Watergate, gay and big bands would be different for him than for the people who read them when they were printed 34 years ago.

You don't need a Ph.D. in Scripture studies. If you don't already have one, begin with a copy of the New American Bible, St. Joseph Edition. I'm sure you will find the introductory materials about the church's teachings on the Bible and how to read it, along with excellent notes on books and verses, a big help in your daily readings.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

A tricky disease

Depression's invisible symptoms

What could Brooke Shields possibly be depressed about? Yet, there she is on Oprah explaining what postpartum depression is and that it affects no fewer than 10-15 percent of new moms.

Clinical depression is a curious disease. Unlike other maladies that produce concrete symptoms, depression tries to convince you that you're just fine: "This is normal!"; "So I've had a bad day."

It is almost impossible to identify the condition when you're in the thick of it. Only when it starts making a fool of you (because you become careless) can you appreciate its danger.

As a member of many support groups, I have organized interventions — where family members and friends come together to confront a person about a problem.

But this weekend I was on the other

side, trying to defend the reason I was oblivious that I let my son climb atop the car with wash rags and slippery soap, simply because I didn't have the energy to endure one of his tantrums.

"You're not in control," one neighbor said to me during the intervention that I thought was a going-away party for her.

"It's gone on too long," another chimed in.

On some level I knew this to be true, but I failed to quiet the other voice in my head reassuring me that I was behind the wheel of my brain, and we weren't going to crash anytime soon.

Yet the next night I went to the ER, where I discovered that dehydration, stress and exhaustion had planted an infection in my body that required antibiotics, rest and TLC.

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



Only after visible proof was I able to accept my reality as a person struggling with a chemical imbalance of the brain.

I need lots of sleep (which I don't get), healthy foods (which I don't eat), peace and quiet (yeah right), and supportive friends and family (amen!) with enough courage to confront me when I'm getting none of the above.

And I pray that the other 15 percent dealing with postpartum depression also find such courage and support in their families and friends.

Another tragic effect of Roe v. Wade

One baby's abortion may kill his or her sibling

Abortion advocates recoil at the claim that abortion in the United States is used as a method of birth control. But how else can they account for the fact that nearly half of all abortions each year are performed on women who have already had at least one?

Today, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 48 percent of women having an abortion in the United States have had at least one previous abortion. In some states the rate of repeat abortions is much higher. In Maryland, for example, 71.4 percent of those having an abortion have already had at least one, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC also tracks multiple repeat abortions from states which submit data. Maryland ranks highest: 16.4 percent of those having an abortion have had at least three prior abortions.

Most Americans, pro-life and pro-choice alike, are shocked to learn these figures.

How did this happen?

The blame starts 32 years ago with Roe v. Wade, which rendered all state laws against abortion null and void — even the most permissive — and replaced them with the radical and utterly

Life Issues

CATHY CLEAVER
RUSE, Esq.
GUEST COLUMNIST



reckless rule of legalized abortion throughout pregnancy, for virtually any reason.

And society reacted accordingly. If legal abortion is unlimited, why not use it to "solve" social problems? Many people didn't realize — and the Supreme Court has obstinately refused to see — that abortion doesn't solve problems, it only creates new ones.

New research from France confirms yet another of these problems: Having an abortion almost doubles a woman's risk of giving birth dangerously early in a later pregnancy.

Researchers at the Hopital de Bicetre in Paris say they have found conclusive evidence of a link between induced abortion and subsequent extreme pre-term births — so extreme that many babies die soon after birth or suffer serious disabil-

ity. Their study of more than 2,000 women with pre-term delivery is reported in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The researchers found that abortion appears to increase the risk of most major causes of premature birth, such as premature rupture of membranes, incorrect position of the fetus on the placenta, and spontaneous early labor. Overall, a previous abortion made women 40 percent more likely to have a very pre-term delivery, and 70 percent more likely to have an extremely premature baby.

So abortion not only robs a child of his right to be born — it may also kill or disable his sister or brother. After three decades of legal abortion, how many subsequent children have been affected by abortion?

Unlimited legal abortion has been a dangerous social experiment on the lives of women and children. The only way to stop the experiment is to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq. is the director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Pope says Christian belief in Trinity affirms that God is love

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: Due to an early publishing schedule, we are unable to bring you the pope's weekly general audience.

VATICAN CITY — The Christian belief in the Trinity is an affirmation that God is love, said Pope Benedict XVI.

"The phrase that summarizes all of revelation is this: 'God is love,'" the pope told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square May 22 for the recitation of the Angelus prayer.

Like the Trinity, he said, "love is always a mystery, a reality that surpasses reason without contradicting it. Rather, it exalts its potential."

The doctrine of the Trinity, which says the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three persons in one God, reflects the truth that "God is not solitude, but perfect communion," the pope said.

"For this reason, the human person — the image of God — realizes himself in love, which is the sincere gift of self," he said.

The pope also used his Angelus address to encourage special activities and devotions on the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which is celebrated May 26 at the Vatican and May 29 in Italy.

Pope Benedict confirmed he would preside over the May 29 Mass in Bari, Italy, to conclude the weeklong Italian eucharistic congress.

"In the heart of this year dedicated to the Eucharist, the Christian people gather around Christ present in the most holy sacrament, the source and summit of their life and mission," he said.

"Every parish is called to rediscover the beauty of Sunday, the Lord's day, on which the disciples of Christ renew in the Eucharist their communion with the one who gives meaning to the joys and trials of each day," he said.

Pope Benedict took the opportunity to offer special prayers for children and young people around the world who were receiving Communion for the first time and for those who were being confirmed.

Watch your step

Our walk may define who we are, what others see

Have you ever noticed the way people walk and how it defines them?

Every day I take the Metro to work. Recently I have made it a practice to "walk-watch" people.

One woman I have observed for years always seems to be running. Ironically, she does this while smoking a cigarette. She and a number of people like her are what I call "the out-of-breath breed." They are always in a hurry, no matter what the circumstances.

On Capitol Hill where I live we often see the "senatorial step."

The senators' shoes are usually youthful looking, their suits impeccably pressed. They stride with a confidence that sets them apart from others.

Even though some of them don't quite match up to this description, enough of them do to say that one's position in life affects how one walks.

The "saunters" have a walk all their own. You have the feeling you are watching people who have the world by the tail. Their step is firm, confident and controlled, yet flowing.

There is also the "elderly walk." With age comes a tendency to droop one's shoulders. In this position, one

leads with the drooping shoulders and drags the feet.

Unlike youthful Marines who throw out their chests, who are as straight as boards and whose feet take the lead, the feet of age-worn people reflect a loss of youthfulness.

The "infirm walk" is different from the "elderly walk" in that you sense pain with their every stride. I marvel at how some people, barely able to put one foot in front of the other, are able to get out of bed, let alone walk for blocks.

I also wonder if they realize what an inspiration they are and how they remind us that our minor aches and pains are insignificant.

More than the elderly or infirm walker, the "listless walkers" get most of my sympathy. When you look into their faces, the eyes are often empty.

It is as if these people have the weight of the world on their shoulders. There is no spring in their step, and they seem not to want to get where they are going.

Sometime back I spotted a father taking his little daughter — she looked to be around 3 — to school. It was so beautiful to behold because of

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



the way the little girl clung to her father and tried to match him step for step.

During the season of spring, they exuded the new life that spring is.

A "baby's walk" is the best of all to watch. When toddlers first get upright, they literally bounce-run wherever and whenever they decide to go.

Interestingly, these little ones keep their balance much better that we might expect once they are airborne. It only looks like they're going to fall over with each step.

Many other ways of walking define us. Next time you go for a walk, watch your step — and reflect on what it might be saying about you.



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Corpus Christi

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JUNE 10, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 34

A LIFE RENEWED

New priest answers God's call

FATHER EBRIGHT ORDAINED
BY BISHOP JUGIS

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Father James Ebright recently celebrated his first Mass as a priest in the church where he was baptized 30 years ago.

"It was glorious," he said of the May 29 Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville. "I was baptized there on Easter Sunday in 1975. It was one of many things that made it (celebrating Mass) wonderful."

Not only did he celebrate his new ministry as a priest in the church where he began his life as a Catholic, he gave Communion to the faithful where he received his first Communion. Life, it seems, has come full circle for the North Carolina native, and it continues on.

Before a church filled with clergy, seminarians, family and his parents, Mabel and Arthur, Father Ebright officially began



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father James Ebright gives Communion to his mother, Mabel, during his ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte May 28.

See EBRIGHT, page 6

SUPPORTING THE SICK

Catholic Church at forefront of AIDS treatment, prevention

BY TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

UNITED NATIONS — The Catholic Church is at the forefront of efforts for the prevention and treatment of AIDS, Vatican representatives said during a day the United Nations devoted to reviewing

See AIDS, page 17

Certainly their cup of tea

MERCY SISTER HIGGINS
CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY
WITH UNIQUE TEA PARTY

BY KRISTINE REICH
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BELMONT — She may never have been a mother herself, but that did not keep Mercy Sister Margaret Mary Higgins from loving every infant and mother for whom she cared.

See TEA, page 5



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Charlotte Catholic High School graduates celebrate following commencement ceremonies at Ovens Auditorium June 2. Charlotte Catholic graduated 256 seniors this year.

ADIEU TO SCHOOL

Catholic schools let out for summer

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — School has officially let out for the summer for the 7,240 students in diocesan Catholic schools.

After 180 days of classes, recesses, Masses and exams, students across the diocese celebrated the transition to the next grade, school or stage in life. Yearbooks were inscribed, diplomas handed out and tears flowed as students and teachers said goodbye.

For 368 graduating seniors, the coming months hold the promise of new challenges as they head off to college. For the rest, there will be new classmates, teachers and subjects.

But for the moment, there is just the celebration of another school year finished, marked with hugs and handshakes, laughter and tears, fond farewells and fonder memories.

FOR END-OF-SCHOOL
COVERAGE, SEE PAGES 10-13.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Margaret Mary Higgins is all smiles during her 100th birthday tea party in Belmont May 26.

Knightly recognition

Knights of Columbus bestow
awards on deserving youths

|PAGE 8

Waiting for marriage

Hispanic youths promise
chastity until marriage

|PAGE 9

Perspectives

Father's Day; priesthood reflections;
blessedness of marriage

|PAGES 18-19

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

RELIGION BEHIND BARS



CNS PHOTO BY SAM LUCERO, CATHOLIC HERALD

Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan joins inmates in a closing song during a Palm Sunday Mass celebrated at the Dodge Correctional Institute March 20. The Supreme Court May 31 upheld a federal law that requires prisons to accommodate the religious practices of prisoners.

Supreme Court upholds religious rights of prisoners

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court May 31 upheld a federal law that requires prisons to accommodate the religious practices of prisoners.

In a unanimous vote, the court said the 2000 Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), does not violate the Constitution by giving what might be perceived as an advantage to members of religious groups.

The court was not asked to address and did not rule on the law's provisions protecting the rights of religious groups to use their land without undue government interference.

Several Ohio prisoners who follow nontraditional religions sued the state when the prison refused to let them meet in a group for worship and rejected their requests for certain ceremonial items and religious publications. The state had argued, among other things, that being required to accommodate prisoners' religious beliefs would amount to state support of religion and that other prisoners would abuse the law because it might entitle them to certain foods and privileges they could not otherwise have.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that RLUIPA violates the Establishment Clause by "impermissibly advancing religion by giving greater protection to religious rights than to other constitutionally protected rights."

The ruling said it was inconsequential that the prisoners who sued were members of nontraditional faiths. The petitioners followed the Church of Jesus Christ Christian, a white racist church; Asatru, a Norse neopaganist faith; Wicca; and Satanism.

Ginsburg wrote that RLUIPA "confers no privileged status on any particular religious sect, and singles out no bona fide faith for disadvantageous treatment."

But the protection conferred by the law does not "elevate accommodation of religious observances over an institution's need to maintain order and safety," she wrote. "Our decisions indicate that an accommodation must be measured so that it does not override other significant interests."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was among religious organizations filing a brief urging the court to uphold RLUIPA.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which wrote that brief, said in a statement that the ruling was "a thumping victory for religious accommodation statutes throughout the country."

"Religion is often the root of rehabilitation," said the statement, "and so inmates must be free to practice as their faith requires. This the Supreme Court has embraced by today's decision."

Catholic, Muslim scholars continue work on joint marriage document

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Muslim and Catholic scholars continued work on a joint document on marriage and family life during a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Muslim-Catholic Dialogue May 4-5 in Douglaston, N.Y.

Citing a "strong consensus" among adherents of both faiths about the topic, a May 24 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops about the meeting said, "Catholics and Muslims together affirm that marriage is a blessing from God, situated in the order of creation as a natural relationship between a man and woman."

"They also believe relationships woven together in matrimony provide an environment in which faith and the moral life of the virtues may flourish," the release added. "Holding similar views on marriage and family life, Muslims and Catholics can enrich, strengthen and encourage one another in working together to testify to shared values before the wider society."

Catholic and Muslim leaders have united against proposals in several states to legalize same-sex marriages.

The dialogue group began its discussions of marriage and family life in 1998, but those talks were interrupted after Sept. 11, 2001, when participants decided to explore the relationship between religion and violence.

Already drafted and/or edited for the marriage document are chapters on the context, history and purpose of the document; the religious basis of marriage and its laws and rituals; concerns related to family life; the impact of society and social change on the family; Catholic and Muslim views on interreligious marriages; an appendix on the process and principles of interreligious dialogue; and a bibliography.

Dialogue participants hope to finalize the chapters this summer and to complete work on the document by the end of this year.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oration of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The next women's talk at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will be June 15 at 7:30 p.m. Father John Starczewski will present "What we as Catholics believe from evolution to the death penalty." For more information, call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — We invite you to join us so that we may be with you in your illness and pain be it mental, spiritual or physical. *We will pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus for your healing.* Come and know the gentleness and unconditional love of the Lord. Claim his promise of healing and give praise and thanks for all that will be done in the Lord's holy name. We meet the third Monday of every month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death

of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com or Carol Vincent at jclvincen@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, meet the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554 0720.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says world must mobilize to assure human right to education

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The international community must mobilize to assure respect for the human right to education, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In a world increasingly marked by the globalization of the economy and information, "it is important at this moment to mobilize the powers of intelligence to ensure everyone's human right to education and culture is recognized, especially in the poorest countries," he said.

Pope Benedict's remarks were made in a letter read at a special June 2 seminar at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to mark the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Pope Benedict reminded seminar participants of Pope John Paul's insistence that in all educational and development programs the good of the person

and human dignity must be the central concerns.

The pope said his predecessor had called on UNESCO "to build peace starting from the foundation: respect for all human rights, those tied to the person's material and economic dimension as well as those tied to the spiritual and interior dimension of his existence in the world."

Pope Benedict said Pope John Paul's words are just as important today as they were 25 years ago.

In the modern world, he said, "men and women must learn more and more to recognize each other as brothers and sisters," an educational task the church can promote by underlining "the relationship that binds each person to the Creator of all life and who is the source of the inalienable dignity of each human being from conception to natural death."

workshop. The workshop will include talks by two local NFP-only physicians and a witness couple. Childcare will also be available. For details and to RSVP, call Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 or e-mail sujo94@aol.com.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Diocese of Rome formally opens sainthood cause for Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Diocese of Rome formally opened the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II, asking Catholics around the world to present evidence "for or against" his reputation for holiness.

The edict signed by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, launched the information-gathering stage of the late pope's cause. In mid-May, Pope Benedict XVI waived the normal five-year waiting period and said work on the sainthood cause of his predecessor could begin immediately.

Cardinal Ruini's announcement was published May 31 on the front page of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, and was ordered posted on the doors of church offices in Rome and in Pope John Paul's native Poland.

The request for information was expected to prompt an avalanche of testimonials from Catholics and could also bring to light unpublished letters and other writings of the late pope.

The edict noted that Pope John Paul's reputation for holiness "exploded in a remarkable way at the moment of his

death." Now the faithful should communicate directly with the Rome diocesan offices to help document the sainthood cause, it said.

It invited all Catholics to come forward with "any information that can in some way support arguments for or against the reputation for holiness" of Pope John Paul.

The diocese was also to gather all the writings attributed to Pope John Paul throughout his life. The edict directed "whoever is in possession of such writings to forward them with due care" to officials working on the cause.

Of primary interest, it said, were unpublished manuscripts, diaries, letters and other private writings of the late pope.

Even without the normal five-year waiting period, the work on Pope John Paul's cause is expected to take several years. In addition to studying his writings and interviewing witnesses, the church officials must confirm that two miracles occurred after his death, as the result of prayers asking for his intercession with God.

Crawling toward the cathedral?



CNS PHOTO BY ART BABYCH

A giant spider appears to be headed toward Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa May 15. In reality it is Maman, a bronze sculpture by Louise Bourgeois permanently erected outside the National Gallery of Canada, opposite the cathedral.

Federal court strikes down Virginia's partial-birth abortion ban

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond ruled June 3 that a Virginia ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure is unconstitutional because it does not include an exception to protect a woman's health.

The 2-1 decision by the appeals panel upheld a ruling by a federal judge last year on the 2003 Virginia law, which made it a felony to perform a partial-birth abortion. The date the law was to take effect was blocked by the lawsuit challenging it.

The appeals court judges who struck down the Virginia law said they based their decision on a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down a similar Nebraska law banning partial-birth abortions because it did not contain a health exception.

Gail Quinn, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the court's action "in overturning this law makes it painfully clear that even infanticide cannot be banned in the United States."

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 15—18 USCCB Spring meeting
Chicago

June 20—7 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

June 22—6 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands

June 25—11 a.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe

June 26—July 1 Pallium visit by Archbishop
Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta
Rome

Making a difference

Catholic Daughters award contest winners

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Joan of Arc No. 2471 recently awarded prizes to the winners of their local education contest.

The themes of the national contest, sponsored locally by Court St. Joan of Arc, were "Our Mother's Loving Touch" and "I Can Make a Difference."

Six entries were awarded cash prizes on the local level. Four of the entries were then judged on the state level and won first place in their respective age divisions and categories.

G.G. Hampton, vice regent and education contest coordinator, presented the following awards during a presentation at St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville May 1.

Magic marker art, third-grade division to Julian Pinelli of the St. Andrew Church in Mars Hill; pencil art, seventh-grade division to Daniel Pinelli of St. Andrew Church; art, seventh-grade division to Raminta Holden of St. Joan of Arc Church; poster art, fifth-grade division to Hayley Lusk of St. Joan of Arc Church; and art, 10th-grade division to Jaclyn Burchell of St. Joan of Arc Church.

A poem by Kelli Tinsley, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, won recognition on the local and state levels in the adult poetry division.

From its inception in 1903, Catholic Daughters of the Americas has grown

and developed into the largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas. Headquartered in New York with 100,000 members in the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic and Mexico, Catholic Daughters of the Americas' purpose is to help the church in its religious, charitable and educational works.

The organization, open to Catholic lay and religious women 18 years of age or older, supports Covenant House, which provides shelter and services to homeless and runaway youths; Support Our Aging Religious, a national agency that helps religious orders meet retirement needs; Holy Cross Family Ministries; the U.S. bishops' Apostleship of the Seas; Teachers of Exceptional Children in conjunction with the National Catholic Educational Association; Morality in Media; Catholic Relief Services; and Habitat for Humanity.

It also provides scholarships and support for seminarians.

The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the national program for girls ages 6-18, was founded in 1925.

There are currently six courts in the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Catholic Daughters' education contest, e-mail G.G. Hampton at ggh1@bellsouth.net.

Bound in prayer



COURTESY PHOTO

The Christian Mothers of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory sponsored a living rosary celebration at the church May 21. The multicultural event featured reciting the rosary in English, Spanish, Filipino, Hmong and Portuguese. Participants lit candles and prayed their part of the "luminous mysteries" of the rosary, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II in 2002 that added to the traditional trio of joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries. Prayers and intentions were for an increase in vocations to the religious life, pro-life issues and Pope Benedict XVI.

Hickory teen to attend gifted-students program

HICKORY — Peter McNulty, 16, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, was selected to participate in the 2005 Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics, a summer residential program for academically gifted high school students.

The state-funded program is administered by the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

As one of 550 high school students in North Carolina invited to participate, Peter will focus his studies on physics and topology during the four-week program

at Appalachian State University in Boone. The program involves coursework, research projects and extracurricular activities in the fields of study.

Peter is a member of Life Teen and an altar server at St. Aloysius Church. At school, he is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, cross country and track teams, and is historian for the Interact Club and co-treasurer for the National Latin Honor Society.

Peter also is a Life Scout and has earned the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hayley Lusk, Jaclyn Burchell, Raminta Holden and Kelli Tinsley were among the winners of the education contest sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Joan of Arc No. 2471.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School in Charlotte; Franciscan Sister Kathleen Ganiel from Winston-Salem; Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte; and Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picot from Belmont celebrate anniversaries to the religious life during the Sisters' Appreciation Day held in Curtin Hall at the Sisters of Mercy community in Belmont. Sister Nagle and Sister Picot are golden jubilarians, while Sister Ganiel and Sister Warren are silver jubilarians.

Msgr. Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, presented a message of gratitude to the sisters and, along with Sister Warren, presented certificates and gifts to all those in attendance.

Fifty-four attendees were present, representing eight religious congregations and 1,520 years of service to the Diocese of Charlotte. There are 21 congregations of women religious currently ministering within the diocese.

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**** Registration deadline: July 15**
Information: Beth Manning 704-365-6601
or Stephanie Alder 704-365-2209

Sister celebrates 100 years

TEA, from page 1

Sister Higgins, whose 45 years in health care were served mostly in maternity and delivery wards, was honored at a unique tea party at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont May 26, three days before her 100th birthday.

Wearing a special birthday hat over her veil, she was joined by more than 60 of her closest sisters and friends who donned special party hats and multicolored feather boas.

Those assembled were treated to an unusual fashion show, at which the train of a wedding dress sported a toy train, bell-bottom pants had bells on the bottom and necklines dubbed scoop and plunging were decorated with ice cream scoops and plungers.

Sister Higgins, who served as both a pediatric and obstetric supervisor at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte and St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville, was then-known as Sister Mary Lawrence, a name that became synonymous with loving medical care.

Born May 29, 1905, in Westport in County Mayo, Ireland, Sister Higgins determined her future would be in what was then considered the "mission" fields of North Carolina.

She traveled alone by ship and then by train, eventually arriving in Belmont where she entered the Sisters of Mercy on June 11, 1925. She took the name Sister Mary Lawrence, but in August 1967, returned to her baptismal name.

She soon graduated as a registered nurse from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and began caring for patients, initially serving as a floor and night supervisor before moving into the pediatric and obstetric areas of the hospital.

"When I first took over the archives (of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina), I found a small red stocking," said Mercy Sister Mary Andrew Ray, "and



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, centenarian Mercy Sister Margaret Mary Higgins and Mercy Sister Paulette Williams (standing), president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of N.C., wear party hats and boas during a birthday tea party.

was told it was an example of many like it that Sister Margaret Mary would place a newborn infant into before she delivered them to their mothers during the Christmas season."

Until October of 2000, Sister Higgins remained an active presence at St. Joseph's Hospital. Her familiar figure could be seen scurrying down the halls, sorting the mail or praying in the chapel.

When not at the hospital, she could often be found in the convent's kitchen, usually baking any number of her specialty breads. She became famous for the Christmas stollen and friendship breads that were sold at the annual Sisters of Mercy Bazaar.

Even though retired from active nursing, she has reinvented herself as an indispensable asset to her local community through her current ministry of prayer. She remains an avid reader, a loyal citizen of Ireland and is devoted to God and her community of sisters.

Kristine Reich is director of communications for the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.



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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis anoints the hands of Father James Ebright with sacred chrism during his ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte May 28.

Priest answers God's call

EBRIGHT, from page 1

his new life as a priest during his ordination celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte May 28.

"This is a day of great joy for the Diocese of Charlotte," said Bishop Jugis during his homily.

Bishop Jugis said Father Ebright was being ordained during the Year of the Eucharist, "a time of special grace for the Church when we renew our amazement at the sacrifice of our Lord's body and blood, which the Savior gave to his Church.

"This is the sacrifice which will be offered through your hands," the bishop told Father Ebright.

Father Ebright's family watched joyfully as his ordination unfolded.

"I am so full of joy, so happy and thankful," said his mother, watching her son standing on the altar with the bishop after Mass.

"It's beautiful to see a young man

give himself to God," said Linda Payne, Father Ebright's aunt. "There's hope for the world."

For Father Ebright, becoming a priest was an answer to a call heard long ago. He began serious consideration about being a priest shortly after high school, and his parents were encouraging.

"I felt that something was missing in my life, and I knew that God was calling me to do something more," said Father Ebright. "I went through many years of discernment to confirm that it was the priesthood that was missing."

So Father Ebright left his engineering job in Winston-Salem and followed his heart to Theological College at Catholic University of America in Washington.

Becoming a priest, he said, has put him on "cloud nine," and he's ready for the challenges ahead.

Father Ebright said he believes a good priest is one "whose heart is in union with Christ and who has a zeal to save souls."

"I hope to bring the people to God and God to the people," he said. "Everything we do (as priests) is aimed toward that."

"He brings a pastoral heart. He genuinely cares about people," said Father John Putnam, acting vocations director and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Father Putnam said Father Ebright's qualities and background will make him a good priest.

"He's a very bright man, and has a wonderful ability to work with a wide range of people," said Father Putnam.

In addition to Jesus Christ, Father Ebright said he has many inspirations.

"There are many people over the last 2,000 years whom I'd like to emulate," he said. "Many stories of the faith and of modern-day saints are inspiring."

Specifically, he said, Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II.

"His mind remained strong as his body failed," said Father Ebright of the late pope. "There are so many aspects of people's lives that I'd like to emulate."

Concelebrants of the ordination Mass included Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and diocesan chancellor; Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral; Father Putnam; and other priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte. In attendance was Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

During the rite of ordination, Father Ebright confirmed his promise to fulfill the office of the priesthood. Kneeling, he placed his hands between Bishop Jugis' hands in a promise of obedience to the diocese.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the priestly candidate, the church and its people as he lay prostrate before the altar.

During the rite's most solemn moment, Father Ebright knelt in silence before Bishop Jugis, who laid his hands on Father Ebright's head. The celebration of the sacrament of holy orders was completed as the bishop extended his hands over the kneeling candidate and prayed the prayer of consecration.

Father Ebright was vested with a stole and a chasuble — outer garments of the priestly office. The bishop anointed his hands with sacred chrism

and he was then presented with a chalice and paten signifying his role as celebrant of the Eucharist.

The newly ordained Father Ebright then joined his brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening the new chapter in his life.

"My brother, James, go now with Jesus into the depths of his heart," said Bishop Jugis. "You are his priest. The paschal mystery is yours to live ... yours to celebrate for the people of God."

It was a command Father Ebright had waited to hear.

"My greatest joy? Turning myself over to God," said Father Ebright.

PRIESTLY ASSIGNMENT

Effective July 5, 2005, Father James Ebright will serve as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.



FATHER JAMES ARTHUR EBRIGHT

Born: March 11, 1975 in Mocksville, N.C.

Ordained: May 28, 2005 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte

Background: Spent youth in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Schooling: Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem (bachelor's degree in religion and theology); Theological College at Catholic University of America in Washington (master of divinity).

Hobbies: reading, CAD (computer assisted drawing), design work.

Favorite type of music: Classical.

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My sacrifice and yours

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 18

For the past several weeks, our catechesis on the Mass has focused on the first movement of the liturgy of the Eucharist: the offertory. And last time we discussed the preparation of the altar, the offertory procession of the gifts and the offering prayers for the bread and the wine.

After the offering prayers for the bread and the wine are recited and the sacred vessels are placed on the square linen cloth (called the corporal), the celebrant bows to the altar and prays silently: "Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble and contrite hearts."

The priest speaks in his own name, as well as on behalf of the faithful, asking God to receive the gifts that he has just offered — namely, the gifts of bread and wine, as well as the sacrifice of ourselves. At this moment, the celebrant may place incense in the thurible, bless the incense and incense the gifts, the altar and the crucifix.

This is now the third time that the incense may be used to signify the church's offerings and prayers rising like incense in the sight of God.

The incense unites the symbols of Christ: the altar, which is the central symbol in the sanctuary for Christ; the crucifix, which recalls the redemption that is re-presented in the sacrifice of the Mass; and the bread and wine, which will actually become the body and blood of Christ in the consecration of the Mass.

The incense may then be used to incense persons: first the celebrant and then the concelebrants, by virtue of their sacred ministry; then the faithful, by reason of their baptismal dignity.

After this third incensation, the celebrant washes his hands. What is the purpose of this gesture? Ritual purification is not a novel practice in the Mass.

Many ancient religions, in particular the Jews, maintained numerous traditional rites for the purification of vessels, as well as for the hands of those who are partaking in the ritual itself.

Further, in the early church, it became practical necessity for the priest to wash his hands after the offertory. The faithful would present a vast array of offerings for the benefit of charity to the poor, including food, bread, vegetables, fruits, flasks of wine and clothing. Following this extended offertory, it became

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



necessary for the priest to purify his hands before touching the sacred vessels to offer the sacrifice.

The ritual maintains its place in the Mass. Known as the lavabo rite, the washing of hands now refers more to an internal, spiritual purification rather than an external one. As the celebrant is washing his hands, he recites a private prayer in silence to this effect: "Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sins."

Notice that there is a distinction made between the iniquity that underlies the desire to sin, and the actual sins themselves. St. Cyril of Jerusalem comments on the mystical meaning of this ritual in the fourth century: "[The lavabo] shows that we must be free from all sin. We perform actions with our hands; to wash our hands is the nearest thing to purifying our deeds."

The celebrant returns to the center of the altar and implores the faithful to unite themselves with him in the sacrifice that is drawing near. In the original Latin text, the priest says, "Orate, fratres: ut meum ac vestrum sacrificium..." [Pray, brethren: that my sacrifice and yours...].

The prayer indicates the two distinct sacrifices of the Mass: Christ and his body, the church. Our current English translation simplifies this expression: "Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice"

The prayer is a sort of extended form of the more common "Let us pray." The people stand and respond, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands"

Finally, the "Prayer Over the Gifts" is the second proper collect or prayer of the Mass and signals the end of the offertory. This prayer usually acknowledges our inability to offer to God gifts adequate to his goodness and power. The church prays that God will accept what we offer with sincerity and respond with generous graces as we prepare to enter the most solemn movement in the Mass: the consecration.

Next week, we will begin to examine the consecration as we move to the Eucharistic Prayer.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

A command to action



PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Father Jim Collins, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Newton, leads a eucharistic procession as part of a parish celebration for the feast of Corpus Christi May 29.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI IN NEWTON

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

NEWTON — Speaking about the Eucharist, Deacon Scott Gilfillan related a unique story about his puppy.

"For more of us, the word 'rabbit' is a noun. For her, the word is a call to action," he said. "Her body goes tense, her ears perk up and she is ready to go."

"Sometimes we treat the Eucharist as an object of adoration, but it is also a command for us to participate in the life of Christ," said the deacon. "It shows that God loves us and that we must love one another."

Deacon Gilfillan, permanent deacon at St. Joseph Church in Newton, spoke in both English and Spanish during a special Mass to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi at the church May 29.

The Mass, in which prayers, readings and hymns were in both languages, was the only Mass held that day at the church to show unity in the body and blood of Christ.

A highlight of the celebration was a eucharistic procession, during which parishioners followed Father Jim Collins, pastor, outside as he carried a monstrance containing the Eucharist.

A group of boys at the parish know

all about bringing the Eucharist to others.

The Holy Crusaders is made up of boys eight years and older who have received their first Communion. Each commits to one or more hours each month of giving presentations on the Eucharist to first communicants and confirmands, or praying for specific intentions.

The club's purpose is "to help bring other people to Jesus and the sacrament," said Brendan Vickers, club president, who serves in the club with his brother, Andrew.

The best part of being a member, said Andrew, is "that we are learning our faith."

The parish celebration was held in commemoration of the Year of the Eucharist, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II to be celebrated from October 2004 to October 2005. Many parishioners from St. Joseph Church also are planning to charter a bus to attend the Diocese of Charlotte's Eucharistic Congress, which takes place in Charlotte Sept. 23-24.

DID YOU KNOW?

A monstrance is an exposition case and stand, generally large and ornate, used to display the Eucharist for certain processions and devotions. A eucharistic procession is a way of bringing the Eucharist out into the community.

WRITERS SOUGHT

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST!

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



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Walking in the footsteps of Christ during Lent



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the youth group from St. John the Baptist de La Salle Church in North Wilkesboro, which sponsored a Lenten Stations of the Cross and fish fry at the church March 18. Each Friday during Lent, a different parish group — such as the youth group, Hispanic Leadership Team, Peace and Justice Group, etc. — sponsored and led parishioners in walking the 14 Stations and retracing the steps of Jesus Christ. The Stations were preceded by a Lenten soup and bread supper prepared and shared by parishioners.

Rewarding excellence

Past Grand Knight Felipe Villalon of Knights of Columbus Council 10504 presents the 2005-06 Canice Conners Scholarship to Conner Brannan, a rising eighth-grader at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, April 29. The \$500 scholarship is sponsored by the Council 10504 and given yearly to a Catholic school student who is actively involved in his or her school and parish.



COURTESY PHOTO

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COURTESY PHOTO

Madeline Rose Lewis accepts the Staddon-Cain scholarship award from Chip Evans, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville.

Teen wins Knights' Staddon-Cain award

KERNERSVILLE — Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville recently announced the winner of the John R. Staddon and Frank L. Cain Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Grand Knight Chip Evans presented the award to Madeline Rose Lewis, 14. Madeline received a \$500 check in February toward the continuation of her education.

Council 8509 presents the annual award to a young student parishioner of Holy Cross Church based on the individual's scholastic achievement and for community- and church-related accomplishments.

Madeline has been home schooled and plans to enter Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville next fall. She is an active volunteer with Peace Goods Mission, therapeutic riding stables and a homeless women's shelter, and she teaches other students about Catholicism.

Madeline is the daughter of Ken and Melanie Feeney Lewis.

The scholarship fund, founded to perpetuate Catholic education, was named after two non-Catholic men who married Catholic women. During their lives, Staddon, who later converted, and Cain both supported the Catholic Church and their children's faith formation.

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WAITING FOR MARRIAGE

Hispanic youths, young adults promise chastity

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CLEMMONS — Hispanic youths and young adults from the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh recently renewed their vows of chastity until marriage.

The promises were made during a weekend retreat, "True Love Waits," held at Holy Family Church in Clemmons May 27-29. More than 70 youths and young adults participated.

"It is very important for the Hispanic Ministry that the people of Hispanic traditions and customs are engaged in overall growth, especially in the areas of human sexuality," said Ricardo Veloz, director of diocesan Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

"In the Spanish community, we don't speak about sexuality," said Erica Guerra, a parishioner of St. Eugene Church in Wendell, N.C. "We only learn these things in school."

"One of our goals is to create awareness of the Catholic perspective on purity and chastity, as well as the importance and worth of their own sexuality as it relates not only to themselves, but more importantly, to God and then society in general," said Veloz.

Much of the information delivered at the retreat came from the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," according to Laura Flores, a volunteer at the retreat.

"Along with the lectures, there are a lot of plays or skits, singing, praying and small and large group activities, all of which involve much interaction between presenters and participants," she said.

"The premise is for the participants to remain chaste until marriage," said Flores. "There are different reasons being presented for taking this stance, and they all center on God, self-worth, social life and the advent of

sexually transmitted diseases."

"The process leading to chaste sexuality begins with self-awareness and advances through the stages of friendship, courtship and finally marriage," she said.

The retreat, which featured Masses and confession, included sessions on abortion and the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

"We had sessions on a holistic view of self and how to apply all of this (Catholic faith) to self and others through a true Christian ethic, what we are supposed to do and what we are not supposed to do," said Flores.

One skit related sexual activity to roses.

"The petals relate to each sex act," said Flores. "The chaste virgin is a rose, untouched by sexual activity. Each time you have sex you would peel off a petal. If you continually have sex and peel off the petals, you end up with nothing left to offer for marriage."

"But if you refrain from having sex ... you can still have a lot to offer your future spouse," she said.

After the skit and discussion, the participants were asked to renew their vows of chastity, even if they had previously been sexually active.

"It's hard sometimes to do the right thing," said Flores.

"... We must have a commitment to ourselves, to our future spouses and our future children," said Medina.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

UPCOMING RETREATS

Similar retreats will be held in Monroe July 15-17 and in Hendersonville Aug. 12-14. For more information, contact Ricardo Veloz at (704) 661-2243.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

More than 70 Hispanic youths and young adults participate in the "True Love Waits" weekend retreat held at Holy Family Church in Clemmons May 25-27. The participants learned about human sexuality according to the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

First Communion



COURTESY PHOTO

Emilie Hughes, Melissa McMath and Alynna Summit stand with Oblate Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, after receiving first Communion May 1. The children, families and parishioners celebrated after the Mass with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

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The retreat will include sessions each day with time for personal and communal prayer/reflection in an atmosphere of silence. Casual clothing. Hiking trails nearby.

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GRADUATION

Stepping out into a wide-open world

Charlotte Catholic graduates 256

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A close-knit group of students is taking its first steps into the world beyond high school. The Charlotte Catholic High School class of 2005 received their diplomas at Ovens Auditorium June 2.

"The bonds that we have forged, especially this year, as well as the sense of family that we have established, cannot be ignored," said Andrew Petrilli, in his salutatorian address. "It is such a blessing to be able to call each one of you my classmate and my friend."

The diplomas were conferred by Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte; Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; and Gerald Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School.

The commencement exercises for Charlotte Catholic reflected the Catholic faith that is taught alongside French, American history and algebra.

"We have been taught for years to find Jesus in everyone that we meet," said Samson Mesele, valedictorian. "In the bonds that we have formed, I swear, for a brief moment we stroked the face of God."

Following the closing prayer, the euphoric graduates marched out into the open green space outside the auditorium. After tossing their caps into the air against a soft evening sky, young men and women embraced each other as if for the first time and the last.

FAST FACTS

Charlotte Catholic's class of 2005 consisted of 256 students who received more than \$5 million in combined scholarships.

Charlotte Catholic sports teams won 15 conference championships and seven state championships in 2004-05.

SAT scores for CCHS seniors (1105) exceeded the average scores for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, North Carolina (1006) and the United States (1026).

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED AT CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC?



"I learned that life goes on whether you have a good day or a bad day."

— Thomas Pacicco



"How to practice my faith without being ashamed."

— Kaitlin Gilbride



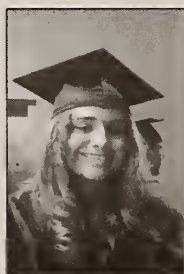
"Work hard, pray always and have fun."

— Christine Mancusi

WHO HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOU?

"Mr. (Norman) Rioux ... because he inspired me to succeed in whatever I do and taught me many things, not only in Spanish but life."

— Amanda Sain



"Andrew Petrelli, because he is one of the nicest, classiest guys you will ever meet and is always there for you."

— Anne Menze



Tomorrow's leaders take next



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2005 graduating class of St. Michael School in Gastonia was honored at a special school Mass May 12 celebrated by then-pastor Father Joseph Mulligan of St. Michael Church. As part of a school tradition, during the Mass the graduating eighth-graders passed candles to the seventh-graders, who will be next year's role models and leaders at the school.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Holy Trinity students Emily Blazer, Alyssa Farls and Jessica Short sign each other's yearbooks on the last day of school.

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PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

An exuberant fifth-grader exchanges "high fives" with the students of St. Ann School June 3. The celebration has been an annual school-wide event for the past five years.

A NEW PURPOSE



COURTESY PHOTO

The 119 graduates of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville pose for a group photo before their commencement ceremony May 28.

Bishop McGuinness graduates 119

KERNERSVILLE — As their high school careers came to a close, graduating students were encouraged to discover their purposes in life.

Father John Olenick, a 1988 graduate of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, gave that message to 119 graduates during the school's commencement ceremony at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem May 28.

Father Olenick, who now serves in New York, told the students to discover their purposes in life in light of the opportunities that they have enjoyed at Bishop McGuinness.

Diplomas were distributed by Principal George Repass; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general for the Diocese of Charlotte; and Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

Richard Valittuto, student council

president, was class valedictorian and Jennifer Williams was salutatorian.

Two days before commencement, the graduates participated in a baccalaureate Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro May 26. Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the Mass, with priests from the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates concelebrating.

FAST FACTS

Bishop McGuinness' class of 2005 consisted of 119 students who received more than \$1.7 million in combined scholarships.

52 graduates were inducted into the National Honor Society.

100 percent of the 2005 graduating class will attend more than 60 colleges/universities this year.

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- *7:30 pm free dance

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- *9 am - 1 pm breakfast/brunch (\$5; 6 and under free)
- *"The Story of St. Ann's" videos

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Lasting embrace



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Wanda Garrett and seventh-grader Anna Tillery hug goodbye as the last bell rings for the school year at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point June 3.

Learning never ends

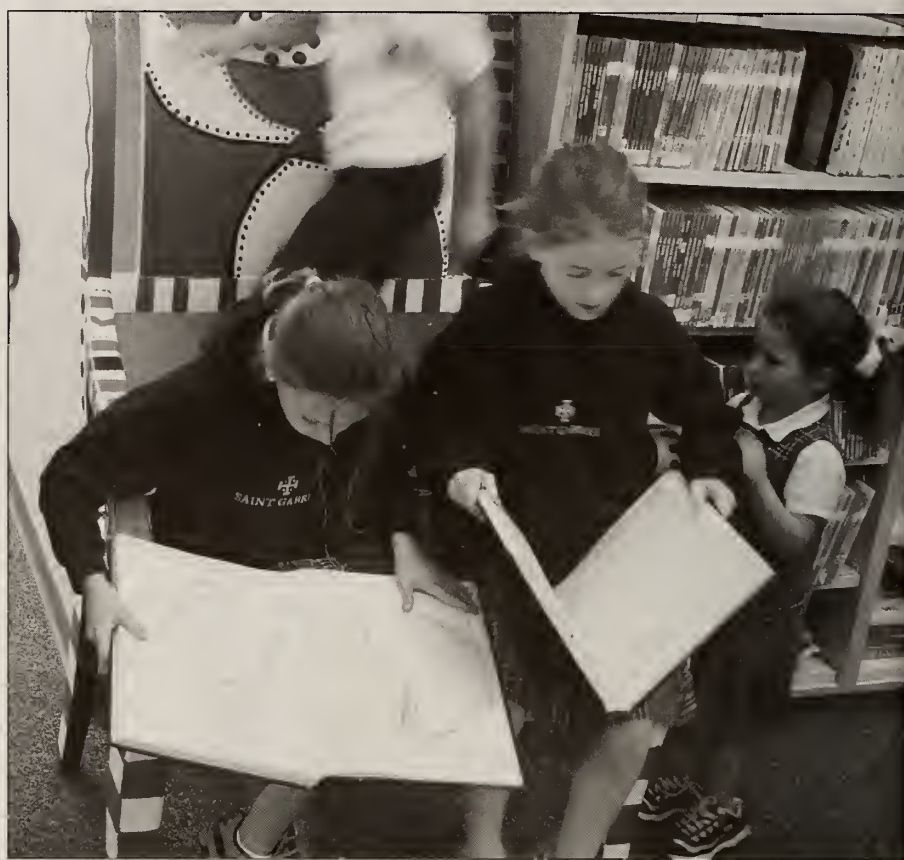


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Catherine Chambers, Susannah Huth and Caroline Chambers cram a few more geography facts in before leaving St. Gabriel School for the summer June 3.



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A fond farewell

Two admired, loved principals retire

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — After more than 5,700 school days spent educating thousands of students, Pat Murphy and Bill Meehan said tearful goodbyes to current and former students, parents and faculty and staff as they left their positions as principals of diocesan Catholic schools. Murphy retired at the end of the 2004-05 school year, having spent 26 years working in the Diocese of Charlotte, as math and science teacher and principal at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte and as principal of St. Michael School in Gastonia.

Meehan retired after serving six years as principal of Immaculata School in Hendersonville. After relocating to Illinois, where his grandchildren live, he plans to continue to work, but on a more limited basis and reduced responsibilities. Both Murphy and Meehan were asked to reflect on their experiences and what the future holds for each of them.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

Murphy: The day the student council was making a banner for Catholic Schools Week that said, "We are not just a school, we are a family." We had a large banner made and it has been hanging on the front of the building for the past 10 years.

Meehan: Providing a climate for others to realize their own potential. Here at Immaculata, that climate has allowed others to create and develop a viable sports program, an award winning chess program, a school choir and more.

How did you convey Christ's message to your staff and students?

Murphy: I convey Christ's message to the staff and children each and every time I see them. I greet them each morn-

ing, I call them by name, I honor and respect them, I believe in their goodness, I am willing to help them as best as I can, and I am there to see them off at the end of the day and tell them that I will see them tomorrow.

Meehan: I tried to convey Christ's message to the staff and students through prayer and personal example. I encouraged the creation of a school choir to lead us in singing at our weekly school Masses, as I believe that the voices of children sung in praise to the Lord is one of the highest forms of worship and most pleasing to him.

What are you looking forward to in your retirement?

Murphy: I am looking forward to spending time with my family. My husband, John, and I can visit the children and grandchildren. I love to sew, cook and garden. I will have more time to do this.

Meehan: I will have more time to "stop to smell the roses" and spend more time with my grandchildren. Also, I want



Bill Meehan pitches in by sweeping the floors of Immaculata School in Hendersonville. Meehan retired after six years as principal of the school.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A brownie embraces Pat Murphy after Troop 82 presented Murphy with a painting of Mary during Murphy's retirement party May 22. Murphy retired as principal of Our Lady of the Assumption School after working in the Diocese of Charlotte for 26 years.

to concentrate more on my ballroom dancing lessons and explore other possible interests such as music and the arts. I will probably want to take a trip to Ireland and northern France, especially the area around Normandy for its historical significance.

What is your favorite quote or personal motto?

Murphy: I believe that everyone has special gifts that are freely given to us. It is an opportunity for educators to help the children reach their full potential. I also believe that it takes the whole village to raise the children.

Meehan: Being a Vermonter, I like Calvin Coolidge's statement to the effect that perseverance is the greatest of all personal attributes.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

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Culture Watch

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EARLY CATHOLICISM

In U.S. history, Florida beats New England, says retired professor

BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla. — When speaking of firsts in U.S. history, the place should be Florida's St. Augustine, not Plymouth, Mass; the first settlers should be Spanish, not British; and the religion should be Catholicism, not Puritanism.

"It's about time that we corrected our brethren in the northern climes," Michael Gannon told an audience of Catholic journalists during a May 27 workshop at the Catholic Press Association's annual convention in Orlando.

"By the time the pilgrims came to Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal," he said.

A professor emeritus at the University of Florida, Gannon has done extensive research on the history of the state and written the landmark book on the subject, "The Cross in the Sand," published in 1965.

He also wrote the first chapter of "Florida's Catholic Heritage Trail," a book to be published this year that encompasses the history of all seven of Florida's Catholic dioceses, beginning with the events in 1565 in St. Augustine.

Known as "the Grinch who stole Thanksgiving" by some New Englanders, Gannon said, "we have to tell the story" of Florida's early history and, by extension, the Catholic contribution to the history of the United States.

It was Juan Ponce de Leon in 1521 who first explored the territory he christened Florida, after the Spanish name for Easter, Pascua Florida. That was 86 years before the British arrived in Jamestown, Va., in 1607 and nearly a century before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620.

"There is a place called St. Augustine. It's critically important to Florida history. It's critically important to Catholic history. It's critically important to our country's history," said Eric Johnson, director of the Mission Nombre de Dios (Name of God) in St. Augustine, the first Catholic parish in the United States.

Johnson and Susan Parker, of the Division of Historical Resources for Florida's Department of State, joined Gannon as co-presenters of the workshop.

According to Gannon and evidence uncovered by state archeologists, Ponce de Leon and subsequent Spanish explorers had landed in what are now Tampa Bay and Pensacola Bay, and explored as far north as the Chesapeake Bay, by 1526.

They brought with them not just soldiers but farmers, families and Spanish priests — Dominicans, Franciscans, Je-

suits — who set up 38 mission outposts in Florida by 1655. In fact, the name San Francisco was given to a mission in Potano, near present-day Gainesville, about 170 years prior to the use of the name in California.

"These were selfless men of God who wrote one of the great stories in the history of the faith in North America," Gannon said. "Here were the first people who carried the lamp of Christianity into the darkened interior of North America."

Contrary to popular belief and what is taught in some history books, "the natives were not in any way used or abused by the friars, nor would they let them be abused by others," Gannon said.

He described the priests as living among the Indians as Peace Corps volunteers do today, teaching them European ways without imposing their beliefs. By 1655, the Franciscans counted 26,000 native converts in Florida.

Gannon called the Spanish priests "the first great defenders of human, civil and religious rights in what is now the United States." He stressed that "no Indian was ever converted by force."

Johnson noted that when Pedro Menendez de Aviles landed in 1565 in present-day St. Augustine, just south of Jacksonville, he claimed the land for Spain with both a flag and a cross. Seeing him and the rest of the Spaniards reverence the cross, the Timucuan Indians who had gathered at the site followed suit.

"The very beginning of the teaching of the Gospel in the United States was by example rather than by word," said Johnson.

That gesture was followed by the first Mass on U.S. soil. It was celebrated by the priest who accompanied the expedition, Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, on Sept. 8, 1565, on the site known to this day as Mission Nombre de Dios (Name of God).

After the Mass, Menendez de Aviles invited the Timucuan to join him for "the first communal meal of Europeans and natives together," Gannon said. "This was the first communal act of thanksgiving in the first permanent European settlement of what is now the United States."

Nombre de Dios also is the site of the first Marian shrine in the United States, the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche y Buen Parto (The Milk and Happy Delivery), a devotion carried over from Spain by couples seeking to conceive or bear healthy children.

"People come from all over the United States and other countries to pray to Our Lady of La Leche," Johnson said. "What started with Father Lopez as the first parish priest has continued to this day."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 19, 2005

June 19, Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13
Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
- 2) Romans 5:12-15
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

An example of sustaining faith

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

By mid-June, school vacation days have begun across most of the country. Breakneck schedules for families subside.

During this blessed time, travel is usually on the agenda. Those of us who live where it is hot long to go to some place cool.

On the other hand those who have endured months of living in a deep freeze often plan trips to sunny realms.

No matter what direction the compass may lead us, the summer itinerary of most vacationers will include a visit to at least one historical site. Walking the same ground where our fellow human beings have been put to the test often mesmerizes us. Their past becomes part of our past, and their stories become part of our own.

I never will forget my first visit to the lush Pennsylvania farmland where fields rich with sweet corn create towering green roadside walls. My destination that day had

once been simply part of the rolling landscape — an open field that stretches to a patch of trees in the distance.

I was one of millions of people to have visited this quiet place where the echoes of birdsong and muffled voices fill the air. One of history's great ironies lay before me.

The green grass now covers ground that once was soaked with blood. In the peace of a summer day the thunder of war raged — men and animals alike were trapped in the great pandemonium of suffering.

As I walked around the field, I thought of Abraham Lincoln, tormented by loneliness and the anguish of leadership, waiting for the horrific battlefield reports telegraphed from Gettysburg in July. Biographers tell us he was a man of great prayer, a man chosen by history whose only constant was God.

The first reading for this Sunday comes from the prophet Jeremiah. When we hear this ancient voice, it is helpful to know something of the man. God called Jeremiah to preach a message of repentance to God's people who had strayed far away from their faith.

In times of doubt, Jeremiah thinks that perhaps God has made a fool of him. In today's passage from this great prophet we have a window into his suffering. However, we also have a palpable example of his sustaining faith.

Questions:

What people in your life have been models of courage sustained through their reliance on God? When has your trust in God strengthened your ability to stand against the work of evil?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 12-18

Sunday (Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 19:2-6, Romans 5:6-11, Matthew 9:38-10:8; **Monday (St. Anthony of Padua)**, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday**, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday**, 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday**, 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30, Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday**, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Matthew 6:24-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 19-25

Sunday (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33; **Monday**, Genesis 12:1-9, Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga)**, Genesis 13:2, 5-18, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday (St. Paulinus of Nola, St. John Fisher, St. Thomas More)**, Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday**, Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16, Matthew 7:21-29; **Friday (Nativity of St. John the Baptist)**, Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; **Saturday**, Genesis 18:1-15, Luke 1:46-50, 53-55, Matthew 8:5-17.

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New Zealand to air animated series lampooning papacy, Vatican

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (CNS) — An animated series that the British Broadcasting Corp. canceled after protests by Catholics because it lampooned the papacy will make its world premiere on New Zealand television June 8.

"Popetown," described by its creators as "'Father Ted' meets 'South Park,'" will air on C4, a youth-oriented music television station, which last year purchased the rights to air the show in New Zealand before the BBC pulled the show from its schedule.

The BBC was inundated with complaints about "Popetown." The show was said to feature the pope, who travels around on a pogo stick, as a childish retiree whose every fickle whim must be indulged.

"When we purchased 'Popetown,' there was no controversy," said Andrew Szusterman, station and program manager for C4, a CanWest network. "There was no word of ever pulling the show."

Szusterman said the BBC only pulled "Popetown" from its schedule after the health of Pope John Paul II declined.

However in September, Stuart Murphy, controller of BBC Three, announced the show's cancellation, saying, "There is a fine judgment line in comedy between scurrilously funny and

the offensive."

Szusterman said he did not see any problems with the show.

"The scope of it, and I've seen four episodes, is much tamer than 'Father Ted' and much tamer than 'South Park' in its context," he said.

"It is satire in the same sense that 'Father Ted' was satire, and I don't think anyone complained about that. I think this has been blown out of proportion," he said.

"Father Ted" was a British show that satirized life in an Irish parish. "South Park" is a scatological animated series on the Comedy Central cable channel that tells the stories of young children in the mythical town of South Park.

Szusterman said the station recommends parental guidance in allowing children to watch "Popetown." He said nothing in the show raised any red flags when tested against broadcasting standard guidelines.

The show's creators say "Popetown" is a satire of office life.

"Office politics exist in any workplace, but in 'Popetown' there's a bizarre twist: The company is the Vatican and the chief executive happens to be the pope," says the show's Web site.

NO SIGNS OF CANCELLATION

Actor Gilyard finds Catholicism is role for a lifetime

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Actor Clarence Gilyard is well known for being Chuck Norris' right-hand man on "Walker, Texas Ranger" and for being Andy Griffith's on "Matlock."

"Why I got to do 13 straight years of network television and somebody else didn't, who knows?" Gilyard mused in an interview June 2 with Catholic News Service in Washington.

What's less well-known about Gilyard is that he's Catholic. It has been a 10-year run since he joined the church and it shows no signs of cancellation.

He was in town to attend meetings of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications, on which he serves as a consultant.

Gilyard, originally a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, said his journey to Catholicism came as the result of the breakup of his first marriage.

"I went through a serious divorce that brought me to my knees. I had to think on all aspects of my life," he said, speaking in quiet, measured tones.

"Someone took me to Mass, and I looked anew at life at that time, and I felt at home - immediately," Gilyard recalled. "Not long after that I started praying the rosary, too. The man who brought me to Mass essentially taught me to pray the rosary. And praying it was hard."

Now, his family prays the rosary together, said Gilyard, who is married and has three children. "(The Virgin) Mary knows how to teach."

Gilyard, whose home is Texas, has been on a sabbatical from TV and movie acting so he could pursue a master's degree in classical theater at Southern Methodist University.

"I'm about twice the age of my



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Actor Clarence Gilyard, who joined the Catholic Church 10 years ago, serves as an advisor on communications and media to the U.S. bishops.

fellow students," said Gilyard, who will celebrate his 50th birthday on Christmas Eve this year. "I really have to work hard to keep up with them."

The discipline has helped him as a consultant to the bishops' communications committee, on which he has served for about three years.

"I missed the last meeting" in January, Gilyard said, so to prepare for the May 31-June 2 meeting, "I really had to do my homework."

He got the consultant's post based on his friendship with Bishop Joseph A. Galante of Camden, N.J. He attended the episcopal ordination of Bishop Galante when he became coadjutor for the Dallas Diocese in 1999, Gilyard told CNS.

When Bishop Galante assumed the chairmanship of the communications committee, he asked Gilyard to be a consultant; of the committee's 10 current consultants, he is the only one who works in show business.

But he is more than just an actor, he said. He sees himself "as a Catholic Christian," he explained.

"People don't necessarily want to see you in that way," nor do they see him, he added, "as a person, as a father," as someone "called to marriage" or "as an artist."

Gilyard turned down reprising his role as Pastor Bruce Barnes for a third "Left Behind" movie.

"That made Bishop Galante really happy," he said with a laugh. The movies stress a fundamentalist theology of the end times seen as being in conflict with Catholic teaching.

But taking the Barnes role had some important elements for Gilyard.

"I took the (part) because of the character," he said. "Not just because of his being clergy, but the predicament he faces ... the struggle of the individual, and that's putting it lightly."



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Abbey's alumni magazine wins international awards

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College's alumni magazine, "Crossroads," earned high honors for the second straight year, garnering three Communicator Awards in the 2005 Print Media competition.

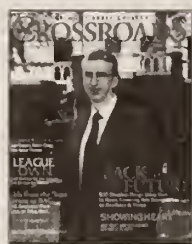
The college won two Awards of Distinction for its Winter/Spring 2004 issue in the Best Magazine for an Educational Institution and Best Magazine for a Non-Profit categories. The Abbey also won an Honorable Mention for Best Writing for a Magazine.

"We are certainly proud of the recognition," said Fran Kirk Piñeros, the college's director of alumni and parent relations. "Without a doubt, the awards fall in line with the college's initiatives outlined in its strategic plan — achieving excellence and virtue."

Belmont Abbey College's director of public relations agreed.

"Our goal for the magazine has always been to reach the Abbey's alumni in a meaningful way," said Teresa Sowders, also the magazine's editor-in-chief.

"From the redesign of the magazine to putting more of their personal stories in print, from the use of captivating photos to the participation of everyone at the college so it's a true product of the



Abbey — we couldn't be more proud."

"No one starts a project thinking it will necessarily win anything," she said. "But it is always nice when you are able to not only meet the goals you set, but also have your work recognized by a group of your peers."

The Communicator Awards is an international awards competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communications field with entries judged by industry professionals. Belmont Abbey College was chosen from among 5,078 entries in this year's competition from advertising agencies, corporate communications departments, educational institutions, government entities, designers, writers, video production professionals, broadcast and cable operations and other businesses throughout the country.

"Crossroads" is published bi-annually by the college's Office of Public Relations with assistance from Alumni Office and the Development Office. The magazine features success stories of alumni and current students of the Abbey and includes; news, sports, arts, calendar events, alumni news, and open letters from the college president, the abbot and alumni president.

This year's Communicator Awards had 187 categories with three awards in each category; the Crystal Award of Excellence, the Award of Distinction and Honorable Mention.

The Crystal Award of Excellence was given to 13 percent of entries, which demonstrated the best in their field.

The Award of Distinction is awarded for projects that exceed industry standards in communicating a message or idea. Approximately 19 percent of the entries won this award.

Honorable Mention certificates are granted to those entries that meet the high standards of the industry. Approximately 10 percent of entries were honorable mention winners.

In 2004, Belmont Abbey College won three Awards of Distinction and two Honorable Mentions for the 2003 Winter issue of "Crossroads" featuring Ed Antosek '68 on the cover.

Msgr. Richard Allen dies at 74



Msgr. Richard Allen

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. Richard Allen, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, died June 7 in Charlotte. He was 74.

Born Aug. 28, 1930, in Brooklyn, N.Y., Msgr. Allen was ordained to the priesthood in Durham by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh in May 1956.

After serving in several parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, Msgr. Allen retired in July 2000 and began a new ministry as a "circuit priest" in Alaska, traveling by plane across an archdiocese covering nearly 14,000 square miles.

Look for more on Msgr. Allen's enduring ministry as a priest in the next issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

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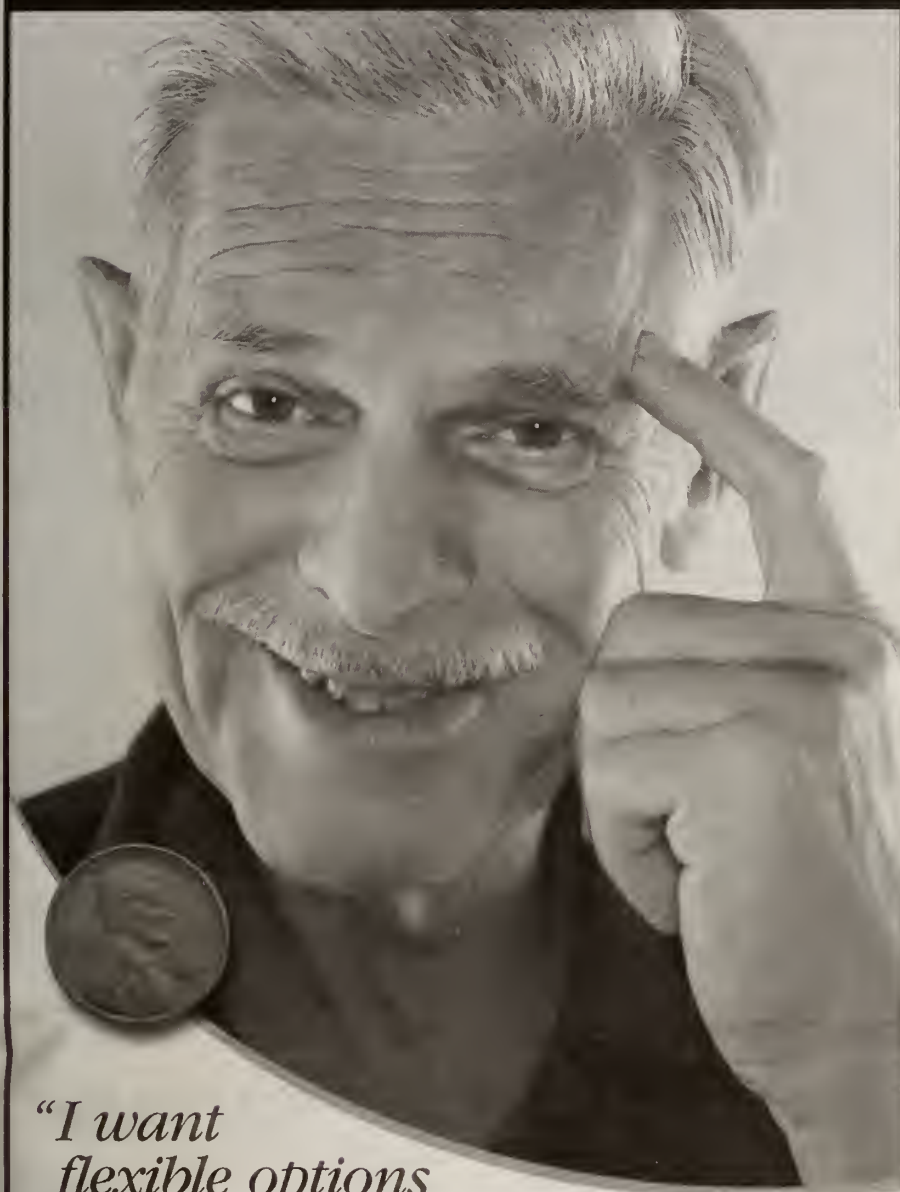
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Church at forefront of AIDS treatment, prevention

AIDS, from page 1

the international community's AIDS-related programs.

Father Robert S. Meyer, a U.S. priest on the staff of the Vatican's U.N. mission, cited estimates of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers that more than a fourth of all AIDS services were sponsored by the Catholic Church.

The Catholic AIDS Funding Network Group of donor organizations reports that it funds or sponsors AIDS programs in 102 countries, he said.

Father Meyer presented the Vatican statement to a session described as a "round table on treatment, care and support." It was one of several meetings held by the U.N. General Assembly June 2 to review progress toward goals set at a 2001 special session on AIDS.

At a round table on prevention, Msgr. Ruben Dimaculangan, another staff member of the Vatican mission, said the church does not accept condom use and called for changes in behavior to prevent transmission of the disease.

When people live out their sexuality in a responsible way, the prevention issue has been largely resolved, he said.

Francisco Dionisio, a Portuguese intern at the Vatican mission, told a conference on the question of stigmatizing people with AIDS that the inherent human dignity of every person means "we are called today to fight against the stigma and to continue to care generously and without judgment" for those with AIDS.

At the beginning of the AIDS crisis, he recalled, while "most government agencies, public and private entities, and even family members" abandoned those in need, church agencies "embraced and cared for" people with AIDS.

The call to speak the truth "chal-

lenges us to shout that HIV/AIDS is not a punishment, is not a crime, is not a horror, and is not a curse, but rather it is the face of suffering in our brothers and sisters," Dionisio said.

Father Meyer said his round-table topic recalled "the particularly strong and determined leadership shown by the late Pope John Paul II in this area."

The pope promoted education to prevent AIDS, led the church to care for AIDS patients and "through his own personal witness and example" discouraged any kind of stigmatizing of people with AIDS, he said.

Citing a statement on the priority of human rights issued by Pope Benedict XVI shortly after his election, Father Meyer said, "The Holy See wishes to register its strong concern that the rights of people affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic demand more careful safeguarding and promotion by both governments and civil society."

On treatment, he reported that Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Medical Mission Board were working with other agencies in a program funded by the U.S. government.

He also said the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference had sponsored programs at 22 sites in three areas most seriously affected by AIDS — South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland.

And church leaders in many areas are developing ways to mobilize their resources "in a more strategic, efficient and effective manner," he said.

Peter Piot, director of the UNAIDS program, and Richard Feachem, director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, were asked whether Christianity, Judaism and Islam were part of the problem or were the solution to the AIDS crisis.

"Part of the solution — there's no doubt about that," Piot responded.

Raising awareness



COURTESY PHOTO

Capuchin Brother Lombard D'Auria (left) stands with members of the AIDS support team from Our Lady of Consolation and St. Gabriel churches in Charlotte who participated in the May 7 AIDS Walk Charlotte 2005, a two-mile walk that is the largest HIV/AIDS awareness and fund-raising event in the Carolinas. Brother D'Auria is a Capuchin postulant serving at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Pictured (from left): Brother D'Auria; Jorge Patino and his son, Alejandro, and niece, Jaime, of St. Gabriel Church; and Jaime Martinez of St. Gabriel Church.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Archbishop Emeritus John Donoghue, a nice guy finishes

Love of Eucharist one of archbishop's many qualities

Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue's dream come true was making the fire marshall worry in College Park, Ga., June 4. The Archdiocese of Atlanta's 10th Eucharistic Congress was underway inside the cavernous Georgia International Convention Center near Atlanta and the place was packed.

The congress' record crowd of 23,000 people in 2004 was eclipsed this month by the 29,000 souls who came to hear the speakers, attend Mass and to understand better the source and summit of Catholic life, the Eucharist. The problem was that there were too many people.



Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue

The crowd was orderly, but was apparently larger than the building was designed to hold. Kathi Stearns, chancellor of the archdiocese, added, "At one point the fire marshall was thinking of closing the building to additional attendees."

In 1993, long before the celebrations of this Year of the Eucharist, then-Bishop Donoghue wrote the pastoral letter, "Rejoice in the Lord, Always!" In it he called the transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ "the wellspring of our salvation and the ultimate meaning of our individual lives."

He backed up those words, first by establishing perpetual adoration in the Archdiocese of Atlanta — something he had established in the Diocese of Charlotte when he served as bishop 1984 to 1993. Two years later he instituted the first Eucharistic Congress for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. About 1,000 people gathered in a church for a day of worship, praise and proclamation, all centered on the Eucharist.

The congress grew each year to the point where it is now — a focal point of Catholic life in the Atlanta area, an event to which thousands look forward each year, and the model for other dioceses, including the Diocese of Charlotte, that are planning Eucharistic Congresses of

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



their own.

(Mark your calendar for Sept. 23-24 at the Charlotte Convention Center for our first diocesan Eucharistic Congress, and visit the Web site at www.goecucharist.com.)

This year's Eucharistic Congress in Atlanta also marked the last one for Archbishop Donoghue. He retired in January and was succeeded by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory.

Will the congress continue? A fair question, as Archbishop Gregory may have other spiritual plans for north Georgia. But at a dinner at the end of the June 4 congress, Archbishop Gregory made it clear that the event would continue. His announcement was met with enthusiastic applause, and a smile from Archbishop Donoghue.

This year's congress also marked another milestone for Archbishop Donoghue. It was held on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Speaking to the 200 people who gathered for the dinner, the archbishop reminisced about his years in Charlotte, his appointment to Atlanta and his gratitude for the growth of the congress.

His talk was sprinkled with humorous stories, such as his appointment as archbishop. When the papal pro nuncio called to ask if he would go to Atlanta, then-Bishop Donoghue responded, "What for?"

He also explained with a laugh that his new title of archbishop emeritus means that he has a voice, but no vote. There were tears amid the laughter and it was clear that he would be missed.

When dinner was over and goodbyes were being said, a young Dominican nun began singing, a cappella, "Ave Maria." The room became silent as the lovely tune and her soaring lyric soprano voice filled each of us with awe at the new beauty she brought to the familiar verses.

All who were gathered, indeed all who have been privileged to experience Archbishop John Donoghue's leadership — in Charlotte and in Atlanta — had a lot for which to be thankful.

David Hains is director of communication for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Pope, at audience, urges faithful to appreciate life's great gifts

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — An optimistic outlook on life and an appreciation of life's great gifts prepare us for the great gift of the Eucharist, said Pope Benedict XVI during his weekly general audience.

"Too easily we see the negative aspects of our life," he said June 8 in remarks apart from his prepared text at his audience in St. Peter's Square.

The faithful are invited "to also see the positive things, the many gifts that we receive," and be more appreciative and grateful, the pope said.

"Only a grateful heart can worthily celebrate the great liturgy of gratitude that is the Eucharist," he said.

Some 35,000 people from around the world gathered in the square to hear Pope Benedict's weekly catechesis.

Focusing on Psalm 111, the pope underlined God's unique compassion and tenderness toward his people.

"Compassion is the divine grace that envelops and transforms the faithful" and the Lord's tenderness is even "more merciful than a mother's," he said.

The Lord's saving acts reflect the "intimate bond that ties God to his people," the pope said.

While the psalmist invites the faithful to "fear the Lord," the pope explained

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



this fear refers not to "fright and terror" but to "serious and sincere respect that comes from love."

He said just as the psalm calls on us to be thankful to the Lord, it also asks us to give him praise.

Just as God's covenant and his "saving justice" endure forever, there is "no break" in the psalmist's gratitude and his prayer is "without end."

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict offered pilgrims greetings in more than 10 languages.

He also made special mention of the presence in the audience of Ukrainian Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Lviv and a group of about 30 bishops from Eastern Catholic churches in Europe.

Cardinal Husar later introduced each bishop to the pope. The bishops were on a pilgrimage to Rome and other Italian cities to venerate the tombs and relics of some of the church's saints.

The blessedness of marriage

OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER IS
SIMILAR TO GOD'S COMMITMENT TO US

Some time ago I was running with a group of men through a park. During the run, they began to talk about the difficulty at times of understanding their wives.

This makes us wonder why God created marriage in the first place! Why commit one's entire life to a significant other?

Let's go to the Bible for our answer.

The English language gives us the word "chaos" and its opposite "cosmos." In Genesis we read that all was chaos, lacking any semblance of unity. Then God breathed into it, and it became a cosmos, i.e., it was unified.

In other words, life from the beginning is based on the principle of oneness.

When the Hebrews arrive in the Promised Land, they fall into the bad habit of forgetting God who brought them there. Prophets come on the scene and tell the people that they are like an unfaithful wife or husband who has broken the marriage bond. As the prophets tell it, God is a jealous lover forever in pursuit of his beloved.

Moving to the New Testament, we read of the Prodigal Son, a strong-headed young man going his own way. He is given his inheritance, which he squanders. Suddenly he finds his life coming apart. No longer is he connected to his father, his true friends or his home.

The story does not end here, but has the father and son reuniting again. Through their renewed union "a son that was dead is now alive."

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



Here Christ teaches us of God's mercy and especially of God's desire that we be one and alive in him.

When we step back from these examples, we see that the new life the Prodigal Son found is the life God wants for us. This life depends on unification: being one within ourselves, with one another and with God.

As humans, we were born to be one with others. When we disconnect and go our own way, we end up like the people of Babel, the unfaithful Israelites and the wayward Prodigal Son. We tend to come apart, become chaotic and self-destruct.

Marriage signifies the unity that dispels chaos, selfishness and disconnection, and opens the way to beauty, goodness and oneness.

As humorous as that runner's words were, they were profound. Our life is all about committing to a significant other.

Actually, when it is all said and done a principal reason for living our lives virtuously is to be eternally joined to God, who has committed himself completely to us. Our goal is thus to end up in what might be called a truly blessed marriage.

Priesthood: Reflections on my 45th anniversary

A holy priest is one who gives no matter what

As Catholics, we stand firmly against moral relativism and reject that modern-day heresy called "situation ethics." This claims that there are no absolutes and no unbreakable principles.

At the same time we recognize the fact that Jesus condemned the legalistic spirit of those Pharisees who delighted in rigidly enforcing the letter of the law. They put sins like murder and the breaking of the Sabbath fast on the same level. Jesus rebuked this.

We believe that there are absolutes, that is, unbreakable prohibitions like abortion, blasphemy and child abuse. These are always sinful.

However, missing Mass on Sunday is not. Canon law allows you to excuse yourself from the divine command to worship on the Sabbath if you are sick, but not if you are merely lazy or neglectful of your Christian duty to worship God.

I celebrated my 45th anniversary as a priest May 28. I congratulate all my brother priests and deacons who are celebrating their anniversaries this time of year.

Here is a little piece, which I adapted from St. Paul's beautiful passage in 1 Corinthians 13:1: "If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels but speak

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing ..." (Jerusalem Bible).

Here are a few of my reflections for priests:

—If we were to preach like prophets and impress everyone with our flair for storytelling but had no real love for our audience, the people of God, our words would be lifeless seeds scattered on good soil.

—If we were to administer huge parishes with expert skill but showed no charity toward those under our care, our skills would be fruitless and our people denied.

—If we were to visit the sick and bury the dead with meticulous fidelity to the rubrics but had no empathy for those grieving, we would be robots, light-years removed from the heart of Christ.

—If we loved honors and fancy titles but had no compassion for the poor, we would be like expensive caskets filled with dead men's bones.

—If we were loyal to the church but never rose to her defense in the face of unjust criticism, we would be mere functionaries lacking in courage.

—If we surmounted all temptations and persevered to the end but failed to understand our vocation as instruments of God's love, we would be rosebuds that never bloomed.

A holy priest is one who has the love of Jesus flowing through him. This love never depends on good feelings or kind treatment. It keeps on giving until it hurts.

We priests may not always live up to our highest ideals, but we do try to be loving ministers of the Word. Phariseism is an unconscious vice. Those Pharisees who were criticized always saw themselves as righteous men. Today there may still be some priests who unconsciously tilt in that direction.

But the vast majority of priests agree with St. Alphonsus Liguori, the patron saint of moral theologians, who taught quite clearly in "Theologia Moralis," VI, 918, that a sense of exception can be applied in difficult cases to all manmade laws, and even to secondary formulations of the natural law, as long as there is no malice present.

If you are struggling with some unresolved moral issue, seek the guidance of a good priest to help you to understand the church's teaching on the primacy of an informed conscience.

Here is the bottom line: Orthodoxy without charity is not Christianity.

The diary of a bad statistic

ABORTION 'INCREASE' IS MISLEADING CLAIM

Life Issues Forum

SUSAN E. WILLS, ESQ.
GUEST COLUMNIST

Did you know that some politicians claim "abortions have gone up 25 percent since George Bush was president"? Are you shocked? Skeptical?

According to data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), abortion rates are continuing their gradual 20-year decline. AGI's interim figures show 0.8 percent fewer abortions nationwide in 2001 than in 2000, and a similar drop in 2002.

It's a politically useful claim for those who want to discredit efforts to protect the unborn. But it simply isn't true.

Factcheck.org (a service of the Annenberg Public Policy Center) has traced the claim that abortion rates are increasing during Bush's presidency to a pre-election article published in the online edition of *Sojourners*. In the article Dr. Glen Stassen's conclusion that abortions increased during the Bush presidency ("52,000 more abortions occurred ... in 2002 than would have been expected") is loosely cobbled from misread and/or unrepresentative data, plus erroneous extrapolations and unsupported assumptions.

Some examples:

His "nationwide" claim is based on figures from only 16 states. By comparison, AGI found decreased abortions from analyzing 44 states, after excluding two statistically unreliable states that Stassen showcased.

Stassen lists South Dakota and Wisconsin as states where abortions increased from 2001 to 2002, but state health records contradict his claim. For South Dakota, he may simply have misread the table: he asserts a 2.1 percent increase in abortions (in fact births rose 2.1 percent), while abortions decreased 9.7 percent that year.

He claims that abortions are rising in Illinois, based on a 0.9 percent increase in 2002. But he ignored Illinois' 10 percent decrease in abortions in 2003, more indicative of a long-term downward trend than a one-year statistical blip.

Moral: If an abortion statistic seems too good, or too awful, to be true, check your facts.

Susan Wills is associate director for education in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

What fathers really want

Some ideas, prayers for dads everywhere

Sometimes it's tough coming up with gift ideas for dear old Dad. (Father's Day is June 19!) Here are a few points to keep in mind:

—No matter their age, all boys like toys.

Dads DON'T like it when family members spend a lot of money on something, and that certainly includes a gift for them. ("I got this for you, Dad" should always quickly be followed by "and it was on sale.")

—No matter their age, all boys like to play.

One of the joys of fatherhood is goofing around with the children. One of the joys of fatherhood is, at least for a little while, getting to be a kid again.

—No matter their age, all boys like treats.

What boy didn't imagine himself all grown up and able to eat whatever he wanted whenever he wanted! While common sense and the physical facts of being middle-aged or older have eliminated "whatever" and "whenever," a treat is still a treat. Even a small and reasonably sensible one is much appreciated.

—No matter their age, all boys like showing somebody else what they've learned or what they can do.

A dad loves it when a son or daughter shows an interest in something he enjoys doing, but — be warned — it can take patience on both sides to learn to share this skill. Teacher and student need to go slowly and remember that, ultimately, the point is not just to learn a particular skill but to spend time together as that learning occurs.

So, ideally ...? Perhaps a reasonably priced toy for Dad and his children to play with, with Dad doing a little coaching along the way. Followed by a treat!

And don't forget!

Use this special day to thank not only dads and granddads but godfathers, uncles, older brothers and any other man who has played an important role in your life.

F-A-T-H-E-R

"F" is for his being my No. 1 fan, always rooting for me in every good thing I attempt.

"A" is for the anxiety I caused him when he agreed to help me learn to drive the car.

"T" is for the times we sat together in comfortable silence, simply enjoying each other's company.

"H" is for the heat he applied — a

Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS



look, a word, a grounding — when he knew I needed a little straightening out.

"E" is for the education he encouraged me to pursue, convincing me that learning is a lifetime process.

"R" is for the reward he so richly deserves. One that's so big it can't possibly fit on this side of heaven.

Put them all together and they spell "love."

(For Russ Faudree and John Dodds. Thank you, Dad! Monica and Bill)

A Prayer for Fathers

Lord, bless all dads. Thank you for teaching us about our heavenly Father's love through a dad's care and concern, about divine providence through a dad's unwavering support, about eternal joy through a dad's playfulness. Bless all the men of faith, of hope and of love who have been a part of our lives. Amen.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the editors of "My Daily Visitor" magazine.



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Year of the
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Mystery of the Mass, Part
19; Eucharistic adoration
list

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JUNE 24, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 35

Helping hands, healing hearts

*Assisting refugees is
sign of authentic
faith, pope says*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI offered a special prayer for the world's refugees, and said helping them was a sign of authentic faith for Christians.

The pope made the remarks at a blessing June 19 to several thousand people gathered in St. Peter's Square. World Refugee Day was celebrated worldwide the following day.

The pope said the theme of this year's refugee day, "Courage in the Face of Flight and Exile," reminded people of the strong spirit people need when they are forced to flee their homes and their families and face a series of risks and problems.

He said the Catholic Church feels close to refugees

See REFUGEES, page 17



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A Sudanese refugee boy puts his hand out for candy during a celebration of World Refugee Day at a camp in northwest Uganda June 20, 2005. Pope Benedict XVI offered a special prayer for refugees for the occasion and said helping them was a sign of authentic faith for Christians.

U.S. bishops discuss issues, approve documents

CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE
AGAIN A MAJOR ITEM AT
BISHOPS' CHICAGO MEETING

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — As they have been at every U.S. Catholic bishops' meeting since June 2002, clergy sexual abuse of minors and the protection of children from such abuse were a significant part of the June 16-18 meeting in Chicago of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Major items on this June's agenda were approval of revisions of the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" and the related

See USCCB, page 16

Schiavo autopsy does not alter church's pro-life stand, official says

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The autopsy results on Terri Schindler Schiavo are irrelevant to the church's stand in support of her human dignity and against removal of her feeding tube in March, a Catholic pro-life official said June 16.

"Our position was not based on predictions about her likelihood of recovery," said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "It was

See SCHIAVO, page 17

Stewarding the masses

POLI HONORED WITH
MOTHER TERESA AWARD

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Retirement can be a chance to kick back and take life easy.

For Grace Poli, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, it's an opportunity to immerse herself in church and civic projects.

"I believe that we all have talents, and we're supposed to use those talents," she said. "I feel that as Christians, if we believe in our faith, we're supposed to be good stewards and share them with the larger community. We all can make a contribution, and we all do it in different ways."

Poli's contributions have earned her the Mother Teresa Memorial Award from the Knights of Columbus North

See POLI, page 6



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Grace Poli (center) coaches a Dispute Settlement Center class at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville. Participants are Amanda Gaines (left), Bill Birkhead, Elaine Silvia and Les Fleischer. Poli recently won the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for her years of community service.

Pastoral Assignments

Bishop Jugis announces
pastoral changes

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Culture Watch

Good and bad of Harry Potter;
Catholic radio program anniversary

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Perspectives

Overmedicating ourselves;
examination of Schiavo autopsy ****

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

RUNNING ON HOPE



CNS PHOTO BY CRAIG ROBINSON

Along the highway, nearing the high point of his journey, Jonathan Williams of West Hartford, Conn., makes his way toward the Continental Divide in New Mexico June 8. The Fordham University graduate is running across America to inspire people to do something positive with themselves and for society.

Man runs across U.S., aims to inspire people to do something positive

GALLUP, N.M. (CNS) — When Jonathan Williams arrived in Gallup June 7, he was one day shy of being one month into a run across America that he has undertaken to inspire people to do something positive with themselves and for society.

"I'm doing this to promote positive attitudes and goals," said the 26-year-old native of West Hartford, Conn. "I want people to think outside of the box."

Williams began his cross-country journey on Mother's Day, May 8, from Newport Beach, Calif. He will end his run in Newport, R.I. He said he did not realize the significance of his departure date until he started running.

"My mother died of breast cancer seven years ago, and I think of her every day but didn't realize the significance of starting the run on Mother's Day until later," Williams said.

He said he decided not to dedicate himself to one particular cause, but to allow people to choose a cause with which they can identify vicariously through him as he made his way across the United States.

For a year, Williams roughed out the course he would take across the United

States. To carry along his clothes, sleeping bag and personal belongings, he pushes a three-wheeled stroller.

Averaging 25 to 30 miles per day with breaks that last no more than two days, Williams anticipates arriving in Newport by early October.

During his breaks he relies heavily on the generosity of people to help house and feed him. Firehouses have been common spots for Williams to sleep. He has spent nights in motels paid for by strangers who became interested in his effort.

"People are inherently good, sometimes they forget just how good they are," said Williams. "I've told my girlfriend many times that if people treated each other like they have treated me, the world would be an even more incredible place."

It is this optimism that Williams said he has shared with adults and children along the way. He sees his run as a pilgrimage of hope not only for him but for others.

"I've broken down crying on more than one occasion because of the sheer physical and emotional stress," said Williams, but added that he told himself, "I'm not going to let this day beat me!"

Catholic Extension marks 100th anniversary in Chicago

CHICAGO (CNS) — More than 180 bishops gathered at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral June 15 to celebrate the accomplishments of Catholic Extension over the past 100 years.

"It's a great joy for many of the bishops of the United States who are here to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Extension Society," said Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, the group's chancellor, prior to the Mass.

"The society was founded with a zeal to allow the church to flourish in every part of our land," he said.

The Mass, celebrated the evening before the beginning of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' June meeting, gave Extension leaders an opportunity to thank the bishops for their support. The support of bishops, priests and lay people has allowed

Catholic Extension to give more than \$400 million to the home missions — Catholic communities in dioceses around the country that are too poor or too small to meet all their own needs.

The organization started small, said Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., the group's vice chancellor. He noted that Catholic Extension, then known as the Catholic Church Extension Society, was founded by a young Canadian-born priest serving a small parish in northern Michigan.

Father Francis Clement Kelley started the group after being moved by the poverty he saw in rural and remote America. Ironically, Father Kelley was on a speaking tour trying to raise money to pay off the church he built in Lapeer, Mich., when he saw far greater needs in other areas.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* July 16 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Faith Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and third Mondays of each month. The group will read "The Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese and a chapter will be covered every meeting. For more information call Jordan (704) 737-1964 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — Would you like to learn more about your Catholic faith, but are unable to attend a class every week? *Catholic Update* meets Mondays, 5-6:15 p.m. and Tuesdays, 4:30-5:45 p.m. in the New Life Center Room 102 of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This is a drop-in class that will cover a new topic of interest each week. Each participant will receive a *Catholic Update* from St. Anthony Messenger Press to keep. Pre-registration is not necessary. Childcare is available by reservation by calling (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte*

Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School and Our Lady of Mercy School classes of 1954 through 1965 is being considered for Fall 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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CORRECTIONS

Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, diocesan vicar for women religious, was incorrectly identified as a jubilarian celebrating an anniversary to the religious life in a photo caption in the June 10 issue.

In the "Wiping away the despair" story (May 27), it should have stated that Maryknoll Sister Joan Petrick, not Maryknoll Sister Joan Uhlen, spoke at St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches. Also, the Somotillo Committee members of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches are Father George Kloester, Susan Haley, Mike Regner, Iowa Van Hamme, Mary Lou La Penna, Mary Colabella, Joan Otte, George and Mary Ann Schwane, and Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin. Mary Priest and Margaret Norton were very active committee members but have recently moved away.

FROM THE VATICAN

Simplified catechism to be released June 28 at Vatican liturgy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The shortened, simplified version of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" will be presented by Pope Benedict XVI during a June 28 liturgy at the Vatican.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said national bishops' conferences would be responsible for translating the volume into their local languages and for publishing the volume in partnership with the Vatican publishing house.

The "Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church" was drafted by a committee led by the new pope while he was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

A draft of the volume, in which church teaching is presented in a question-and-answer form, was sent for comment in early 2004 to all the cardi-

nals and the presidents of bishops' conferences around the world.

"Forty years after the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council and in the heart of the Year of the Eucharist, the compendium can be a precious aid for satisfying the hunger for truth felt by every human person of every age and condition," said Navarro-Valls.

In 2003, Pope John Paul II commissioned the shorter, simpler version of the 865-page catechism, saying there seemed to be a widespread desire for "a brief compendium containing all the fundamental elements of Catholic faith and morals, formulated in a simple and clear manner."

The late pope had said the new, shorter text would "faithfully mirror" the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" and would be "an authoritative, sure and complete synthesis."

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — Father Matthew Habinger of the *Natural Family Planning Outreach* will celebrate all the Masses at St. James Church, 139 Manor Ave., the weekend of July 16 and 17. For information on NFP outreach, visit www.nfpoutreach.org. For general details, call Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 or e-mail sujo94@aol.com.

CONCORD — Father Matthew Habinger will be conducting a free three-hour workshop, "God's Plan for Human Love," at St. James Church, 139 Manor Ave., July 16. A light luncheon will be served after the 11 a.m. Mass, followed by the workshop. The workshop will include talks by two local NFP-only physicians and a witness couple. Childcare will also be available. For details and to RSVP, call Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 or e-mail sujo94@aol.com.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Caczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles M. Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — All young adults, single or married, are invited to *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Theology on Tap is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. Theology on Tap will meet July 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. at Mi Pueblo Mexican Restaurant, 644 S. Stratford Rd. For more information, e-mail ws_tontap@yahoo.com.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. will present the *Gospel of John Catholic Scripture Study*, a 30-week program whose members learn the Scriptures, and come to a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. The class is forming now for Fall 2005. For more details, visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com. Please register by July 17 to Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136 or rjdemmond@netzero.com, or call Betsy Hoyt at (336) 996-6396.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Episcopal calendar

July 5-8 — Bishops' Provincial Meeting, Charlotte

July 17 — 11 a.m. Mass
St. Bernadette Church, Linville

July 19 — 5:30 p.m.
Catholic Social Services Board Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Vatican officials say giving blood helps Christians heal the sick

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Top Vatican officials encouraged blood donation, saying it was a powerful and practical way to carry out Christ's command to heal the sick.

Pope Benedict XVI, addressing pilgrims from his apartment window June 12, sent special greetings to blood donors everywhere to mark World Blood Donor Day June 14.

He said Christians should find inspiration for blood donation in Christ, who "redeemed us with his blood."

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, head of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, celebrated Mass near the Vatican June 12 with several hundred blood donation volunteers. In a sermon, he asked why people should give blood.

The answers are many, he said. For one thing, despite millions of donors each year, the world does not have enough blood to meet medical needs — especially in poorer countries.

Many give blood out of a sense of solidarity or compassion for the sick, he said. But for Christians, donating blood should have another special meaning.

"Christ gave to his disciples a spe-

cific mandate: 'Heal the sick,'" he said.

"Beyond solidarity and natural compassion, there is this mandate of Christ, whom we obey with our innermost nature by giving blood. This is a great satisfaction, fulfilling from our hearts Christ's command to give health," Cardinal Lozano said.

The cardinal added that giving blood was also a concrete way for Christians to oppose what church leaders have called the "culture of death" and its values of selfish pleasure, power and domination.

The World Health Organization began sponsoring the annual blood donation awareness day in 2004. It said that 82 percent of the world's population does not have the certainty they will receive safe blood if a transfusion is needed.

The situation is worst in impoverished countries, where most people have to rely on family replacement donations or paid donations, the WHO said.

It said more than 80 million units of blood are donated every year around the world, but only 39 percent is collected in developing countries, where 82 percent of the global population lives.

Top hat at Vatican



CNS PHOTO FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI tries on a fire helmet given as a gift by Italian firefighters at his general audience in St. Peter's Square June 15. The pope also spoke on a cell phone after a man in a wheelchair handed him the phone during the audience. For more, see Pope Speaks on page 18.

WRITERS SOUGHT

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST!

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



Pastoral Assignments

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte announces the following pastoral changes, effective July 5, 2005:

APPOINTMENT OF PASTORS

Father Fidel Melo

From: Pastor, Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville
To: Pastor, Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

Father Christopher Davis

From: Pastor, Holy Infant Church, Reidsville
To: Pastor, Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

Father Joseph Mulligan

From: Pastor, St. Michael Church, Gastonia
To: Pastor, St. Elizabeth Church, Boone, and Church of the Epiphany, Blowing Rock

Father John Schneider

From: Pastor, St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, Boone, and Church of the Epiphany, Blowing Rock
To: Pastor, St. Eugene Church, Asheville

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS

Father Tien Duong

From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
To: Administrator, St. Jude Church, Sapphire Valley, and Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands

Father James Solari

To: Temporary Administrator, St. Michael Church, Gastonia

APPOINTMENT OF PAROCHIAL VICARS

Father Robert Conway

From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Father Larry LoMonoco

From: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Father James Ebricht

From: newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Father William Evans

From: Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands, and St. Jude Church, Sapphire Valley
To: retirement, at his request

Father Frank Cancro

From: Pastor, St. Eugene Church, Asheville
To: sabbatical, at his request

Father Frank O'Rourke

From: Pastor, Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro
To: sabbatical, at his request

Confirming faith



COURTESY PHOTO BY TJ STOCKER

Bishop Peter J. Jugis questions confirmation candidates prior to the ceremony at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont May 17. Phil Baucom (rear), confirmation class instructor, watches as the youths answer the bishop's questions about the sacrament and their faith.

Making home sweet again

Diocesan Housing Corporation donates \$5,000 to Home Repair program

GREENSBORO — Many low-income homeowners now will be able to make much-needed repairs, thanks to a \$5,000 gift to Greensboro's new Home Repair program from the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation (CDCHC).

Launched by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro and other partners, the Home Repair program specializes in making much-needed repairs for low-income homeowners, many of whom are elderly and can no longer afford to make basic repairs to their aging homes.

The CDCHC was founded in 2001 in response to the need among seniors for affordable housing. The CDCHC works within the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte in western North Carolina. Its mission is to seek housing solutions for seniors, individuals and families with low incomes and those with special needs.

In addition to seeking out opportunities to develop and manage affordable housing facilities, the CDCHC also aims to partner with other local groups who share its mission of addressing the housing needs of the most vulnerable.

"Since part of our goal is to work with nonprofits and others of good will to leaven our collective talents to improve housing, this seemed like a natural fit for the CDCHC," said Gerard Carter, director of the CDCHC.

"By providing a financial contribution to Housing Greensboro (the Home

Repair program) at this early stage in its development, it is our hope to encourage the creation of an organizational structure that will support this initiative for many years to come," he said.

The Home Repair program is helping homeowners like "Leroy," who's raising his two grandchildren on an insufficient Social Security income. His longtime home had fallen into disrepair — a leaking roof, a hole in the ceiling and deteriorating insulation.

After repairs were made, his utility bill decreased from \$350 per month to \$81 per month.

As of May 2005, the Home Repair team had undertaken repairs on 13 homes. There are seven home repairs in process and 14 other families approved and awaiting repairs.

"We're so grateful for the support of the CDCHC for the Home Repair ministry," said Bob Kelley, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro, who is providing oversight of the program.

"Our waiting list of families who need home repairs is growing and this generous donation will go a long way toward helping us meet their needs," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation, go online at <http://www.cdchousingcorp.org>

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**** Registration deadline: July 15**

Information: Beth Manning 704-365-6601
or Stephanie Alder 704-365-2209

IN MEMORIAM

The journeyman

Msgr. Allen, retired priest, dies at 74

Mission-spirited priest leaves indelible mark

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. Richard Allen, a retired diocesan priest, died June 7 in Charlotte.

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte with Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and Archbishop Emeritus Francis Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska, June 10 at St. Gabriel Church. He was buried at Belmont Abbey cemetery.

Msgr. Allen, an avid traveler and licensed pilot, began and ended his 49-year career as a priest traveling and ministering to people in rural areas. Throughout his ministry, he organized and worked in many outreach programs for the youth, needy and disenfranchised.

Msgr. Allen spent his first year as a priest with the Missionary Fathers Apostolate as an assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Newton Grove. In 1957, he traveled in a camper to celebrate Mass in rural areas of North Carolina, and later served at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh.

Over the next four decades, he served diligently as pastor of six parishes and vicar forane of two vicariates.

He served as a counselor at Notre Dame High School in Greensboro and as state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

Msgr. Allen retired in June 2000 and, with the blessing of then-Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte, left to become a "circuit priest" to minister to people in rural Alaska. He traveled by planes, boats, cars and even snowmobiles to the outlying areas of the state.

Although the 138,000-square mile



COURTESY PHOTO BY MICHAEL DINNEEN, CATHOLIC ANCHOR

Following his retirement from the Diocese of Charlotte July 2000, Msgr. Richard Allen ventured north to Alaska to work as a "circuit priest," echoing his early days as a priest in North Carolina. Msgr. Allen died June 9 at the age of 74.

Diocese of Anchorage is significantly larger than North Carolina, the missionary spirit of the area reminded Msgr. Allen of his early days in North Carolina.

"I average seven Masses a weekend, some said in small churches, others in homes, schools, cinder-block basements, fish canneries and even on the wing of an airplane," he said in an October 2003 interview with *The Catholic News & Herald*. "The people have a strong faith and make every effort to come to church whether

there is a priest there or not. Some travel up to 100 miles for Sunday Mass."

Msgr. Allen noted that his new ministry freed him from administrative duties.

"I concentrate on what I am asked to do, be it Sunday Mass, a funeral or hospital visits in Anchorage," he said in 2003. "I may be asked to go to a fishing village and spend the day with a fisherman. I might not fish, just converse with him about his faith."

Even in retirement, Msgr. Allen rarely slowed his active schedule. In addition to his ministerial schedule, he continued to lead trips to Europe, his last being in January 2005.

Msgr. Allen happily showed his friends and former parishioners his northern home, leading a group on a 10-day trip there in July 2001.

In June 2003 he led a group of 22 teenagers and five chaperones from St. Therese Church in Mooresville and St. Ann Church on a two-week mission trip through the Diocese of Anchorage.

A QUICK LOOK

Born: Aug. 28, 1930 in Brooklyn, N.Y.
Raised in Plattsburg, N.Y.

Educated: St. Bonaventure University, 1952. Christ the King Seminary, 1956.

Ordained: May 24, 1956 at Immaculate Conception Church in Durham.

Assignments: Priest with the Missionary Fathers Apostolate as an assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Newton Grove, May 1956-June 1962.

Counselor at Notre Dame High School in Greensboro, June 1962-September 1963.

Pastor of St. James Church in Concord, September 1963-June 1968.

Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Charlotte and vocations director for the Diocese of Raleigh, June 1968-January 1972.

Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, and vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte, January 1972-October 1976.

Pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem and vicar forane of the Winston-Salem Vicariate, July 1977-July 1982.

Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury July 1982-July 1988. Vicar forane of the Albemarle Vicariate, August 1982-July 1988.

Pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, July 1988-June 2000.

Died: June 7, 2005 in Charlotte, N.C.

Over the years, Msgr. Allen became known for his firm but loving guidance of his teenage parishioners, chaperoning many trips to his mountain cabin, through the Canadian wilderness and on sailing trips to the Bahamas.

Linda Diorio, a close friend of Msgr. Allen, recalled how he reached out to her adolescent sons in 1978. Fifteen-year-old Todd was "drifting down the wrong road" following his parents' painful divorce.

"He guided Todd away from the direction in which he was headed, and helped him to get away from drugs," Diorio said. "My youngest son, Craig, also became close to Father Allen, who helped him through school, sponsored him for Outward Bound, and guided him along the right paths."

"Father Allen's contribution to the community was amazing," Diorio said. "God surely had a superior soldier in his army in Richard Allen."

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**Please pray for the
following priest who
died during the month
of July**

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Poli honored with Mother Teresa award

POLI, from page 1

Carolina state council.

The award, announced by John Harrison, Mother Teresa Award chairman for the state council, was presented by Capuchin Franciscan Father John Aurilia, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, during Mass June 18.

David Onofrio, Knights of Columbus state deputy, was on hand to announce two \$250 donations to the Henderson County Council on Aging and Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) on Poli's behalf.

Annually since 1999, the state council has conferred one Mother Teresa Award in each of the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses. In addition to a plaque, the recipients receive \$500 checks to help carry on their ministries.

"The question the nominating committee asks is, 'Do we see a bit of Mother Teresa in that person?'" Harrison explained.

Pastors nominate candidates from their parishes.

"Grace Poli's ministry can be described in three words: service, leadership and love," Father Aurilia said in his nomination letter.

"She is a woman of strong faith and solid Catholic values," he said. "Her ministry has many branches; however, the root and the center is Jesus himself."

"I feel very strongly about my faith, and I think that just about everything I do is guided by my faith," Poli said. "When I used to go to seminars, they would say, 'Prioritize your values.' For me it was faith, family and work. If you believe that, you have to put it into practice."

Poli serves as board vice president of IAM, a nondenominational crisis intervention program funded by Henderson County churches. She also has been a member of IAM's Strategic Planning Committee and was on IAM's "Taste of Hendersonville" fundraising committee.

She volunteers with IAM's Faith Link, which in nonfinancial ways helps women get the social services they need.

"People who are at the poverty level feel powerless," Poli said. "They don't

know the system. We help them get through the system."

She and her husband, Joe, moved to North Carolina in 1988. Grace worked for a bank, and their jobs and raising four children left little time to volunteer.

"I worked nights for nine years and my husband worked days so one of us would always be home," Poli said.

Even so, she was active in the National Association of Bank Women and mentored some of the women at the bank. She attended Mundelein College part time, earning her bachelor's degree in business the year before she retired as a bank vice president in human resources.

At St. Joseph Church in Downer's Grove, Ill., she taught third-grade religion classes and served on the parish council.

Arriving in Hendersonville, Grace joined the League of Women Voters. Joe was a member of the Knights of Columbus at Immaculate Conception Church.

"I felt if you were moving into an area, you should learn about the area and the best way was through the league," she said. "They asked me if I would chair a committee that would look into child care."

The result was a child care coalition.

"We brought women from agencies that dealt with young children," Poli said. "What we did was come together on a monthly basis to exchange information about what was happening."

"Today, our community's children have a Child Care Resource and Referral program, the Children and Family Resource Center, the Henderson County Partnership for Children, and other services," said Liston B. Smith, Henderson County Department of Social Services director in his letter endorsing Poli's Mother Teresa nomination.

But that wasn't all.

"In addition to child day care, Grace has provided leadership in addressing many other children's needs in our community," Smith wrote. "Grace was a founding member and chairperson for both the local Smart Start board and Kids Count initiative. Taking a special interest in neglected children, especially children placed in foster care, Grace successfully advocated for and established additional financial resources and policies/procedures protecting the rights of foster par-

ents and foster children."

Poli has also served as chair of the Henderson County Board of Social Services and as a board member of the Henderson County Council on Aging. She completed the mediation course at the Dispute Settlement Center of Henderson County and now trains other volunteers in dispute resolution.

At Immaculate Conception Church, she's an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and lector. Father Aurelia wrote that, as a member of the parish council, Poli is "reshaping the structure of our parish profile as well as making our committees workable and alive. She does all of the above with love and a deep sense of humility and service."

Grace and Joe Poli had been married 56 years when he died last December. Grace has continued on, but now prefers

to remain behind the scenes.

"I don't like attention," she said. "I like to do my thing, stay in the background and let it go at that. I know what I've done. Someone else (God) knows what I've done. I don't have to be rewarded any more than that."

DID YOU KNOW?

— The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization, with 1.7 million members in more than 13,000 local councils, primarily in the United States.

— In 2004, Knights raised and distributed a record \$135 million to charitable causes and volunteered more than 63 million hours of service.

— There are more than 13,000 knights in 120 local councils in North Carolina.

Long line of service



COURTESY PHOTO

The Abbot Vincent G. Taylor Assembly Honor Guard line the aisle of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro during a May 22 Mass honoring Msgr. Joseph Showfety's 50th anniversary to the priesthood. Msgr. Showfety, who once served as pastor of St. Benedict Church, retired in July 2002. He has served as friar of the assembly, comprised of fourth degree knights from several councils in Greensboro and neighboring areas, since 1994. After the Mass, the assembly gave Msgr. Showfety a certificate of appreciation for his service and dedication to the assembly.

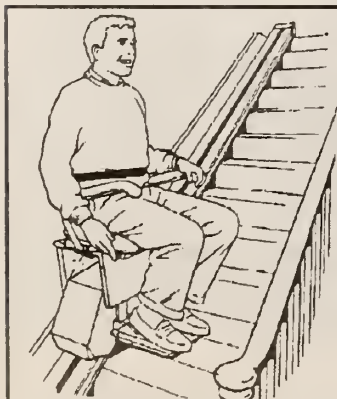
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YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

The second movement: the consecration

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 19

In our study of the Mass, we discovered that the liturgy of the Eucharist is composed of three distinct movements: the offertory, the consecration and the reception of holy Communion. Last time, we concluded our examination of the offertory, where we have the opportunity to offer ourselves to God as our Lord offered himself to his heavenly Father.

The essence of Christianity is the reproduction of what Jesus encountered in the soul of each and every individual in the world. As our Lord accepted his suffering, crucifixion, death and the glory of the resurrection, so also every person is to offer his or her human nature as an offering to the heavenly Father. We are to die to sin in order to rise and live in grace and glory.

In the offertory, we present and offer gifts of bread and wine as well as ourselves to the Father. And in the second movement, the consecration, we unite ourselves with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the high priest and victim.

We now turn to the second movement, the consecration, to investigate how this is accomplished.

The consecration of the Mass occurs within the larger context of the prayer, known as the Canon or the Eucharistic Prayer. The Canon begins with the Preface and continues through the doxology chanted by the celebrant and concelebrants: "Through him, with him and in him"

The Canon, as a prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification, is the center and the summit of the entire Mass. The Canon is recited by the celebrant alone, or parts may be recited by other concelebrating priests. In either case, the priest speaks on behalf of the church, often denoted by the use of "we": "We offer to you ..."; "We pray to you"

However, in the "institution narrative," the person speaking changes although the voice remains the same. No longer does the priest speak on behalf of the church, but now Christ speaks. No longer is it "We pray to you," but "This is my body."

Here, within this prayer the Son addressed to the Father, eternity breaks into time, as the voice of Jesus Christ, the high priest, is heard speaking the sacred words consecrating bread and wine into his own body and blood.

As Pope John Paul II wrote in "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," "the priest says these words, or rather he puts his voice at the disposal of the One who

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



spoke these words in the Upper Room and who desires that they should be repeated in every generation ..." (5).

This is the most solemn moment in the Mass, the greatest expression of love on earth. That is why the church instructs us that "the Eucharistic Prayer demands that all listen to it with reverence and in silence" (GIRM 78).

This second movement, the consecration, truly makes present the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As the Holy Father adds in the same encyclical, "When the church celebrates the Eucharist, the memorial of her Lord's death and resurrection, this central event of salvation becomes really present and 'the work of our redemption is carried out.' ... The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice" (11).

And so before the Eucharist is a banquet, it is first of all the sacrifice of our Lord on the cross. In other words, before the reception of holy Communion is the consecration, where Christ perpetuates and continues throughout time his redemptive sacrifice.

Why? What is the purpose of continually re-presenting his sacrifice if the redemption already occurred?

Above all, the sacrifice of Christ is true worship of the Father. The sacrifice of the Son gives glory and honor to the Father. Further, you and I are the beneficiaries of his sacrifice. The fruits of the redemption must now be applied to our souls.

Finally, Jesus instructed us to, "Do this in memory of me." And so in humble obedience, the church faithfully follows the command of the Lord to offer the sacrifice of Christ, that not only may bread and wine become his body and blood, but more importantly, that we may be consecrated to him and more and more become what we receive: the body of Christ.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?
Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews	Holy Redeemer Church	Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
Arden	St. Barnabas Church	Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Asheboro	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m.
Asheville	Basilica of St. Lawrence	daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Belmont Abbey	Mary, Help of Christians Church	daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
Boone	St. Elizabeth Church	first Fridays 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Mass
Bryson City	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte	Our Lady of the Assumption Church	first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour perpetual adoration
	St. Gabriel Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m.
	St. Matthew Church	Saturday, in chapel
	St. Peter Church	first Fridays following the 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 8:30 p.m.
	St. Vincent de Paul Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m.
Clemmons	Holy Family Church	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
Concord	St. James the Greater Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m.
Denver	Holy Spirit Church	first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday
Forest City	Immaculate Conception Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8-9 a.m.
Franklin	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Gastonia	St. Michael Church	eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
Greensboro	St. Benedict Church	first Fridays, 12:15-8 p.m.
	St. Paul the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
	Immaculate Conception Church	first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
Hendersonville	St. Aloysius Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hickory	Christ the King Church	first Fridays: call church for time
High Point	Maryfield Chapel	perpetual adoration
Huntersville	St. Mark Church	Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Jefferson	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Kannapolis	St. Joseph Church	Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. ending with Benediction and followed by a Spanish charismatic prayer group; Fridays, 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m., ending with Benediction and followed by bilingual Mass
Kemersville	Holy Cross Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
Lenoir	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Saturdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m.
Lexington	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Fridays following morning Mass until 5 p.m.; Benediction following 11 a.m. Mass Sundays
Lincolnton	St. Dorothy Church	Fridays, 6-7 p.m.
Linville	St. Bernadette Church	Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass
Marion	Our Lady of the Angels Church	first Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m. followed by Benediction and Mass. For Spanish-speaking parishioners, 6-8 p.m.
Mocksville	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.; children's adoration last Fridays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Monroe	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Sunday
Mooresville	St. Therese Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 4:45 p.m.
Morganton	St. Charles Borromeo	Fridays following 6 p.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
Mt. Airy	Holy Angels Church	Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Newton	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
Salisbury	Sacred Heart Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Spruce Pine	St. Lucien Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Statesville	St. Philip the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Swannanoa	St. Margaret Mary Church	first Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.
Sylva	St. Mary Church	first Saturday following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
Thomasville	Our Lady of the Highways Church	first Fridays, 12-7 p.m.
Tryon	St. John the Baptist Church	Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Waynesville	St. John the Evangelist Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem	St. Leo the Great Church	first Fridays following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m., except during summer months

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LIVING THE FAITH

JUBILIARIAN SPIRIT

Four Sisters of Mercy celebrate 195 years of combined service

CHARLOTTE — Four Sisters of Mercy who have given a combined 195 years of service publicly renewed their vows recently.

More than 250 women religious, associates, family and friends gathered during a Mass honoring the sisters and their anniversaries to the religious life at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte June 11. Renewing their vows were Mercy Sisters Mary Emmanuel Blasi, Mary Matthew Snow, Mary Rosalind Picôt and Joanne Agnes Kuhlmann.

Mercy Sister Mary Emmanuel Blasi

Mercy Sister Mary Emmanuel Blasi celebrated 70 years as a Sister of Mercy.

The platinum jubilarian, born Catherine Florence Blasi in Brooklyn, N.Y., entered the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 14, 1934.

Sister Blasi taught at St. Patrick School in Charlotte and Sacred Heart School in Salisbury. In 1938 she was assigned to an orphanage's dietary department.

Until her retirement, she remained in one kitchen or another. From the dietary departments of St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville, St. Leo's Boarding School and Sacred Heart Junior College in Belmont to serving as director of the dietary department at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, Sister Blasi nourished both bodies and souls.

She also managed the coffee shop and volunteered as a sister visitor at Mercy Hospital while serving as local superior of Mercy Hospital Convent.

She later served as local superior of the Belmont motherhouse from 1974 to 1976, and also began a prayer ministry.

Involved in the charismatic renewal movement, Sister Blasi attended monthly charismatic Masses in the diocese and was actively involved in a weekly prayer group.

She also undertook a month-long mission to Juarez, Mexico, to help distribute food and clothing to needy families.

"The best thing about my trip was the peace I found in understanding how you can live without all the comforts of life and be at peace and enjoy every moment of life," she said. "Each day was a new challenge."

Mercy Sister Mary Matthew Snow

Mercy Sister Mary Matthew Snow celebrated 50 years as a Sister of Mercy.

Born in Maine as Sylvia Snow, she credits her mother and grandmother with instilling in her strong Christian principles.

After entering the Sisters of Mercy in 1954, Sister Snow said she was influenced by the humility, compassion and humor of Mother Maura Buchheit, then-mother superior.

As a member of Mercy Institute, Sister Snow emphasized her passion for the Sisters of Mercy's mission and service to the poor, sick and uneducated, primarily through her teaching. In teaching science, Sister Snow sought to create an atmosphere for learning, help students be more aware of the world around them and understand their unique roles in God's world.

"Education is a continuous life pro-



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin stands with (from left) Mercy Sister Rosalind Picôt, golden jubilarian; Mercy Sister Joanne Agnes Kuhlmann, silver jubilarian; Mercy Sister Mary Emmanuel Blasi, platinum jubilarian; and Mercy Sister Mary Matthew Snow, golden jubilarian during a celebration honoring the sisters' anniversaries to the religious life at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte June 11.

cess," she said. "We're always learning something new."

For 50 years, Sister Snow has regaled her religious community with her widespread and somewhat unusual talents. Known for her penchant for writing and for adventures, Sister Snow is proficient at snowmobiling, hot-air ballooning, hiking and snowshoeing.

Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picôt

Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picôt celebrated 50 years as a Sister of Mercy. She was born Mary Rose Picôt in Wilmington Sept. 18, 1933.

Attending St. Mary's Catholic School in Wilmington, which was staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Picôt felt an attraction to religious life.

After considering another religious order and serving as a medical missionary, she instead was received into the Sisters of Mercy in 1955.

As a young sister, she admired and strove to emulate the qualities of Mother Mary Benignus Hoban.

"She was so real, down-to-earth, joyful, holy and had a keen sense of humor," said Sister Picôt.

The motto Sister Picôt chose as a postulant, "In te, domine, speravi," translates as "In you, oh Lord, have I hoped." Unknown to Sister Picôt at the time, it was the same motto Mother Benignus had chosen.

Sister Picôt spent many years educating Catholic youths, and enjoyed teaching and serving as principal at Charlotte Catholic High School.

She served in educational administration at Sacred Heart College and spent eight years as vice president and eight years as president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

What has kept her a Sister of Mercy

for 50 years?

"I entered to search for God. I stay for the same reason — I keep finding God in so many different ways, events and people," she said. "There have been sudden revelations and an evolving process, filled with God's grace. And it's all so exciting and fulfilling that I eagerly await whatever is next."

Mercy Sister Joanne Agnes Kuhlmann

Mercy Sister Joanne Agnes Kuhlmann celebrated 25 years as a Sister of Mercy.

Born in Hartford, Conn., Sister Kuhlmann was active in Catholic youth activities and developed a deep faith while growing up.

After college, she became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps. She encountered the Sisters of Mercy at Pope Air Force base outside Fayetteville during a liturgical workshop sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte. Shortly thereafter, she began

Sisters of Mercy gather at institute chapter

SILVER SPRINGS, Md. — More than 300 members of the Sisters of Mercy are currently gathered to elect new leadership and determine how they can best respond to changing needs of the world.

The sisters are holding the meeting, called an "institute chapter," at the Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas, June 20-30.

Throughout the chapter, Sisters of Mercy from North, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Guam and the Philippines will probe questions of identity, governance, new membership, and forms of commitment.

Decisions are part of a multiyear planning process involving 4,630 sisters; 2,615 lay associates; and thousands of coworkers in reconfiguring the 25 regional communities that comprise the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

In addition to electing the institute president and leadership team, the sisters will develop interim legislation that will lead to changes in their constitution, a document by which religious congregations govern themselves.

While in Laredo, the sisters plan to visit various neighborhoods June 24 to meet and learn from women whose lives are limited by economic and social factors

exploring a call to the religious life and in 1979 resigned her commission.

"I chose the Sisters of Mercy because of the vow of service," she said.

Of her many assignments, her current one as nurse case manager with Franciscan Home Care is her favorite.

"I feel that I am treated with dignity and respect and have the time to minister to my patients," she said.

Looking toward the future, Sister Kuhlmann hopes to write a book on the history of her religious community from 1931 to 1991.

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For more information on the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina, visit www.mercync.org

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ALASTING LEGACY

Sister Dennis Eileen honored for lifetime of community

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — The church overflowed with admirers of Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen at a special Mass of thanksgiving at St. Leo the Great Church June 12.

Sister Eileen, now retiring at 88 years of age, was honored for her impact on the community. The extent of her life's work was captured in an article of a local newspaper on her last day as pastoral minister at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center June 3.

"The fact that an old nun ... is on the front page of the paper, that is God's grace working in my life," revealed Sister Eileen, who has ministered to the sick since 1983.

Regina King, admissions supervisor at the hospital, praised Sister Eileen's "undying dedication and overwhelming commitment," and described her as "feisty, compassionate, witty, loving, fragile yet strong and, to many of us, she is our saint."

Sister Eileen is grateful for the opportunity to help people.

"Of all the blessings God has given me, his greatest is (the opportunity) to visit the sick and the needy," she said.

For those who are dying, she said, "I love to help somebody get a peace and

calm before they are called, and to be there for the family."

Sister Eileen never turned down a patient's request for a visit. Many non-Catholic patients asked for her, according to Jane Litzinger, a chaplain supervisor of the Pastoral Care Center at the hospital. In order to ensure a visit from Sister Eileen, some patients would falsely designate themselves as Catholic on the admissions list.

On occasions that Litzinger would fill in for Sister Eileen, she would sometimes be politely turned away by patients who felt there was no substitute.

Sister Eileen believed her sensitivity allowed patients to connect with her.

"When I begin, I don't know what I'm going to say," she said. "The Holy Spirit inspires me. ... I say whatever the Lord moves me to say at the moment."

Raised by her grandparents in Philadelphia, Sister Eileen's interest in religious life was stirred by one of her teachers, a Sister of St. Joseph. Sister Eileen joined the convent in 1934.

She served as a teacher for several years before being asked to serve as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at the hospital. Later, she devoted herself to full-time work as a hospital chaplain.

She also served as a volunteer and board member of AIDS Care Service for more than 10 years.



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen greets Beth and Paul Hoeing, parishioners of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, at a parish reception for Sister Eileen's retirement June 12.

Sister Eileen is retiring to her congregation's motherhouse in Philadelphia.

"We are very confident that you will take Christ with you to Philadelphia," said Father Thomas Kessler pastor of St. Leo the Great Church, during his homily. "We are so grateful to you and to almighty God for his work through you. You speak with your actions and you

have done that well."

Following Mass, Father Kessler presented Sister Eileen with several gifts from the parish.

"Father didn't prepare me for this," she told the congregation. "I want you to know ... I'll hold you in my heart and my prayers and, until God calls me, I'll pray for you."

Have faith, will travel



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Father Frank Cancro reacts as Asheville Catholic School students spell out his name during a farewell Mass for the priest.

Sabbatical will take priest through Asian culture

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — For many students at Asheville Catholic School, Father Frank Cancro is the only priest they have known in any personal capacity.

That is about to change. The pastor of St. Eugene Church is going on a year-long sabbatical, effective July 5, that will take him throughout Asia.

During his homily at a farewell Mass May 31, Father Cancro told the students gathered that they carry the "gift of faith" and that it "will sustain you through all the good-byes and hellos, our beginning and our end."

"The love you feel in your heart never goes away," he said.

Each school family designed a small piece of cloth; the patches and a picture of the students were sewn into a quilt

that was presented along with gift bags.

In thanking the students, Father Cancro noted he could see "a lot of chocolate in these gift bags that will sustain me over the first two months in Asia, where chocolate is difficult to obtain."

Father Cancro plans to study the monastic life, visit Maryknoll missionaries and explore the Catholic faith in several Asian countries, including Cambodia, China, Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines, where he will do course work.

He plans to celebrate Christmas and Mass on an island in Micronesia that has a small Catholic community but no priest, electricity nor running water.

In Vietnam, Father Cancro will teach English at a university. In Cambodia, he will visit a Maryknoll orphanage that cares for children maimed by land mines.

Upon his return, Father Cancro hopes to write articles about his experiences.

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Bedlam at 'Bentley'



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders at St. Michael School in Gastonia perform "Treasure at Bentley Inn" at the school May 26. The play, a mystery-comedy, had the audience roaring with laughter as a young man, played by student Parker Holland, writes a news article about a treasure map hidden at the Bentley Inn run by his girlfriend, played by Hannah Meeler. Hoping the article would boost business, the inn is soon packed with an array of characters, including swindlers, gangsters and little old ladies all frantically searching for the hidden treasure.

'Just thinkin' about tomorrow'



COURTESY PHOTO BY MARIA LEAHY

Oliver Warbucks, played by Joe Mankowski, and Grace Farrell, played by Lucia Leahy, ponder Annie's fate during "Annie Jr.," a play performed by the Drama Club at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte. Comprised of about 60 sixth- and seventh-graders led by parent Rosemary Nocella Franz and other parent volunteers, the Drama Club performed for the school May 6, for the public May 7 and for rising fifth-graders in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system May 10. Eighth-graders and students from Charlotte Catholic High School also assisted in the production set in Depression-era New York about an orphan determined to find her parents. In a series of adventures, Annie befriends President Franklin Roosevelt and finds a new family in billionaire Warbucks, his personal secretary Farrell and a loveable dog named Sandy.

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Principal characters



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: First-grader Sullivan "Sully" Alvis, as "acting principal," pins birthday ribbons on two fourth-grade students at St. Ann School in Charlotte May 11. Sully and second-grader Caitlin Brewer (right), who served as acting principal May 24, were the recipients of their parents' winning bids for "Principal of the Day" during St. Ann School's annual musical and silent auction April 23.



YOUTHFUL SERVICE



COURTESY PHOTO

The pre-kindergarten class at Asheville Catholic School is all smiles while helping serve food, tea and gifts during the school's Mother's Day Tea Party May 6.

Pre-K students end year with party, diplomas

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Between serving tea and collecting diplomas, May was a busy month for the pre-kindergarten class at Asheville Catholic School. The students helped make the Mother's Day Tea Party May 6 a special day by preparing desserts, setting up tables and decorating with flower arrangements. Girls with aprons and boys in white shirts and black ties then served their parents and grandparents, sang songs and presented gifts of decorated

tote bags and flowers. The pre-kindergarteners proudly marched into the school auditorium May 27 for their diplomas, presented by their teacher Jennifer Palmer. The students sang songs before each told his or her favorite part of the school year. Highlights included field trips to the pumpkin patch and zoo, planting a garden and singing to the homeless. The students' eighth-grade Big Buddies then spoke about what made their Little Buddies special.

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Students chosen for local chamber leadership program

HIGH POINT — Seventh-graders Robert Garland, Kenneth Kennedy and Jennifer Lindh at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point have been selected by the High Point Chamber of Commerce to participate this summer in its Teen Leadership program.

Teen Leadership is a weeklong community awareness program for rising eighth-grade students in public and private middle schools and home schools in the High Point area. Its goal is for students to increase their awareness of and concern for their community, improve their leadership skills and

learn about career options.

Each day's program will be at a different location to give students a taste of various business settings and career possibilities. Past locations have included The Millis Regional Health Education Center, Guilford County Courthouse, FOX8-TV, the High Point Enterprise newspaper, Open Door Ministries, Thomas Built Buses and the Piedmont Centre Business Park.

Students interested in participating in Teen Leadership had to fill out applications and obtain written recommendations.

Story time with Schraeder



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-graders read to Principal Georgette Schraeder at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem May 26. Every year in May, Schraeder spends reading time with the second-graders and they in turn promise to continue reading throughout their summer break in preparation for third grade.

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Kelly in Kernersville



COURTESY PHOTO

Motivational speaker and author Matthew Kelly signs copies of his latest book, "The Rhythm of Life," for students at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville in April. Kelly was the featured guest speaker at the 2005 Partners in Hope event, benefiting Catholic Social Service's Piedmont Triad Office in Winston-Salem, April 20. His topic was "Become the Best-Version-of-Yourself."

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National Director of "Priests For Life"
www.priestsforlife.org

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Homecoming



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Deacon Alejandro Ayala assists Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, during a Mass May 14. It was Deacon Ayala's first time assisting at his home parish since being ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., April 3.

The transitional diaconate is the final step before ordination to the priesthood. Seminarians serve one year as transitional deacons before they are eligible to be ordained as priests.

Born in Argentina, Deacon Ayala was a parishioner of and was employed at the basilica before entering St. Vincent Seminary, where he is in his third year. Ayala also recently served a pastoral internship at St. Barnabas Church in Arden.



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Forming ministers



COURTESY PHOTO

Standing (from left) are Mike Wilson, Lynn Rogers, Jim Dudley, Susan Krasniewski and Pat White, graduates of the LIMEX program at a celebratory dinner in Charlotte April 7. Seated are LIMEX facilitators Ann Rowe and Julie Platte.

Five graduate from ministry extension program

BY KEVINE E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Five people from the Diocese of Charlotte recently took big steps in their ministry formation.

Mike Wilson, Lynn Rogers, Jim Dudley, Susan Krasniewski and Pat White graduated from Loyola Institute of Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program at Loyola University in New Orleans, La., in May.

The Loyola program offers master's degrees and non-credit, continuing education certificates in religious education and pastoral studies from Loyola University. The Diocese of Charlotte began sponsoring the opportunity for higher education in 1998. Prior to that, the Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C., was the sponsoring agency for students in the diocese.

The graduates and their facilitators, Ann Rowe and Julie Platte, gathered for a celebratory dinner in Charlotte April 7.

"After many years of hard work, they have accomplished their task and the Diocese of Charlotte has five new lay people with theological training who can help in the church's mission at various levels," said Frank Villaronga, director of diocesan evangelization and ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Some are working in the churches and can bring what they have learned to their day-to-day efforts," he said.

Founded in 1983, the 36-hour program offers a total of 12 classes for the non-traditional student, a person who works a full-time job or has a family and cannot attend classes on a college campus.

The students gather with a Loyola-trained facilitator to discuss what they have read for the class, and watch videos and listen to audiotapes as supplements to their own study. Each class can require up to four papers with up to 20 hours of preparation per week.

The 10 core courses consist of subjects such as practical theology, pastoral leadership and organization, church, sacraments and ethics, and other classes. The two focus classes include youth ministry, Hispanic ministry, religious education and other areas of concentration.

"The students meet in learning groups, so they can be challenged and challenge others as they focus on practical theology," said Villaronga. "They integrate the material into their lives and into the complex world around them."

Villaronga said LIMEX learning groups can be formed anywhere there is interest. Currently, additional groups are being formed throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For further information about the Loyola program, contact Frank Villaronga at (704) 370-3274.



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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Examining the good and bad of Harry

Three books on Harry Potter and Gospel messages

REVIEWED BY JEAN GONZALEZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" by J.K. Rowling will hit stores July 16, but not everyone is wild about Harry.

Three new books offer insight about the young wizard's tales: two for and one against. The "pro" books will have Potter fans racing for highlighters to underline insightful passages, tips on talking to children about the books and keys to symbols in the series. The single



"con" book could be boiled down to: "Read Deuteronomy 18."

"Looking for God in Harry Potter" by John Granger asks on the cover, "Is there Christian meaning hidden in the best-selling books?" His answer is "Yes."

Granger is the "Harry Potter Professor" at Barnes and Noble University, a free, online offering of courses and reading groups where he has taught a course on using the series in children's literature classes. He guides readers seeking the spiritual messages in the books and uses Bible passages to back up his notions.

Granger sees in the Potter books such Gospel values as the ultimate triumph of love over evil, loyalty, friendship and the good or bad consequences individual choices have on an entire community.

Granger finds it significant that Potter uses incantational, not invocational, magic.

"Incantational magic is about harmonizing with God's word by imitation," Granger explains. "Invocational magic is about calling in evil spirits for power or advantage — always a tragic mistake."

It is invocational magic that is contrary to Scripture, he says. Thus, concern that the books might lay a foundation for occult practices is "misplaced" because Potter magic is not "demonic."

Potter fans will love the insight Granger has about the Potter symbols and scenarios, especially the chapter on the historical and spiritual significance of alchemy. Throughout the book are high-light-worthy passages.

Don't put that highlighter away if you grab Mary Margaret Keaton's "Imagining Faith with Kids," subtitled "Unearthing Seeds of the Gospel in

Children's Stories from Peter Rabbit to Harry Potter." Keaton looks at how the messages of Gospel stories, fables and literary classics can enrich children's lives.

Keaton suggests ways parents and catechists can look for "seeds of Gospel messages" within stories and spark conversations with children about those messages.

In one example, Keaton parallels "The Little Engine That Could" to the parable of the good Samaritan.

Keaton says that parents who discuss with children the seeds of the Gospel in the Potter books will find more in the series than just the comfort that "at least Johnny's reading a book."

Steve Wohlberg's "Hour of the Witch: Harry Potter, Wicca Witchcraft and the Bible" tries to warn readers of the sinful and even devilish nature of the Potter series. Wohlberg, director of Endtime Insights radio and television ministry, admits he never liked what he calls the idea behind the novels — glorifying witchcraft.

Wohlberg's basic conclusions are that the Potter series is bad because it might inspire readers to learn more about Wicca, which is bad, and Harry Potter makes sorcery look good and cool, even though the Bible states sorcery is bad. Wohlberg points to Deuteronomy 18 as a biblical passage in which sorcery is seen as evil.

The author goes so far as to imply that perhaps the devil inspired Rowling — unbeknownst to her — to write the Potter series and to get it published. He says parents turn a blind eye to that notion because "at least Johnny's reading." Wohlberg's interesting proposition is delivered in a condescending, single-minded, doom-and-gloom tone.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 3, 2005

July 3, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
- 2) Romans 8:9, 11-13
- 3) Matthew 11:25-30

In God, there is truth, guidance, wisdom

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

For years, my regular meeting with my spiritual director followed a frustrating and troubling pattern. I would walk into his office anxious and confused. After an hour's conversation — with me talking and him mostly listening — I would leave feeling buoyant and hopeful.

Soon, however, the old fears and uncertainties would return, undermining my confidence. I began to wonder if my director was equal to the task of helping me.

Patience, compassionately, he listened to my stories. Over and over, he gently invited me to go deeper, to address issues closer to my core.

How was I dealing with failure?

Were my expectations of others realistic? How might I let go of the impulse to judge everything? What was I scared of?

For a long time I talked all around the tough issues he encouraged me to consider. Slowly, though, my friend's wisdom began to sink in: I would never have the contentment and calm I longed for unless I began to confront these foundational concerns.

Without embracing the discipline of a more radical honesty, that is, without exploring the deeper truths of my life, I would always be anxious and distracted from what matters by things that don't.

It was painful sometimes, facing facts I'd never wanted to see, acknowledging flaws and limitations I'd pretended not to have. But in my companion's good and wise company, I have gradually begun to take baby steps toward a more peaceful and trusting faith.

When Jesus promises us, in Sunday's Gospel, to ease our burdens and give us rest, he is not saying that discipleship will be painless, that anxiety and sorrow won't be felt.

He is promising to walk with us as we carry our crosses; to guide our steps, even when we stumble; to give us his strength and his peace, confident that if we accept his yoke he will do the heavy lifting.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 26 - JULY 2

Sunday (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42; Monday (St. Cyril of Alexandria), Genesis 18:16-33, Matthew 8:18-22; Tuesday (St. Irenaeus), Genesis 19:15-29, Matthew 8:23-27; Wednesday (Sts. Peter and Paul), Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; Thursday (First Martyrs of the Roman Church), Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 9:1-8; Friday (Bl. Junipero Serra), Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67, Matthew 9:9-13; Saturday, Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29, Matthew 9:14-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 3 - JULY 9

Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30; Monday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal), Genesis 28:10-22, Matthew 9:18-26; Tuesday (St. Anthony Zaccaria), Genesis 32:23-33, Matthew 9:32-38; Wednesday (St. Maria Goretti), Genesis 41:55-57, 42:5-7, 17-24, Matthew 10:1-7; Thursday, Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29, 45:1-5, Matthew 10:7-15; Friday, Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30, Matthew 10:16-23; Saturday (St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions), Genesis 49:29-33, 50:15-24, Matthew 10:24-33.

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On air

Weekly Catholic radio program marks fifth anniversary

BY CHRIS SCAPERLANDA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Catholic Radio Weekly is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

The weekly program, produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, is carried by two major Catholic radio networks — Relevant Radio and Ave Maria Radio — that serve more than 30 stations.

It is used in the radio ministries of 27 archdioceses and dioceses and broadcast by 25 independent religious and secular stations, and is also available weekly via the campaign's Web site.

The show was created in response to a 1997 survey of the U.S. bishops. The bishops were asked to describe the kinds of media that they believed would be most effective in reaching the Catholics in their dioceses.

An overwhelming 78 percent of the bishops responded that they believed radio to be an effective and economical way to reach into the lives of the people in their community, according to Patricia Ryan Garcia, executive producer of the program and director of the communication campaign's office of distribution.

She explained that a summit was held to analyze the survey and "was the genesis for the show."

According to Garcia, who has been working on the program since it first aired in 2000, there is no formula for the way in which a station might use the show.

"They can use the show in its entirety or they might simply use bits and pieces of it. We structure the show in such a way that it can meet whatever needs a particular station might have," Garcia said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

Co-host Carole Lehan, an accomplished actress and voice-over talent, is performing arts director at Glenelg Country School in Howard County, Md. She is also program director for the Cappies, an awards program for high school theatrical productions.

Johnny Holliday, the program's other host, began his broadcasting career as a rock 'n' roll disc jockey in Cleveland. He has been the announcer for the University of Maryland basketball and football teams since 1979, and his daily sports reports have been heard on ABC Radio for more than 20 years.

The aim of the show is to give its listening audience a better sense that they are part of the Catholic Church in the

United States, and it informs people about happenings in the bishops' conference.

"Our target audience is the average Catholic in the pew who isn't aware" of the larger church, said Garcia.

"People tend to identify with their parish and diocese but often don't understand themselves as a part of the American church as a whole," she said. "Our goal is to help make people more aware of the larger movement they are a part of."

Frank Morock, director of communications for the Diocese of Raleigh, is writer-producer of Catholic Radio Weekly.

The program includes interviews with bishops and USCCB staff on current issues they are addressing and covers other stories of interest to Catholics. Regular features are provided by several USCCB departments.

Other features include Paulist Father Larry Rice's "Facts of Faith" and Franciscan Father Greg Friedman's "Sunday Soundbites."

Catholic Radio Weekly has won numerous awards including an award of merit from the 2005 Religion Communicators Council's DeRose-Hinkhouse competition and a 2001 Communicator Crystal Award for special programming immediately following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Catholic Radio Weekly's wide distribution may soon become even wider.

"We hear a lot from people who want Catholic radio in their area," explained Garcia.

"The United States is set to release a new round of low-power FMs (stations)," she said. "This is an opportunity for them to take the initiative and start stations."

Low-power FM stations can be operated with as low as one watt of power to a maximum of 100 watts, making them accessible for community groups to run. They can be heard anywhere from a few blocks away to a few miles away.

The success of Catholic Radio Weekly — it started with 12 diocesan subscribers its first year — has launched other programs such as "Lino at Large" — targeted at young adult listeners — and "Tu Companero Catolico" — a Spanish-language show.

WANT TO LISTEN?

Catholic Radio Weekly is available via the Web site, www.usccb.org/ccr/catholicradio.shtml.

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St. Patrick's Parishioners

U.S. bishops discuss issues

USCCB, from page 1

"Essential Norms" implementing the charter legislatively. Both documents were approved by respective votes of 229-3 and 228-4.

As a legislative text the norms still need Vatican approval. But Vatican rejection seemed quite unlikely since the final version approved by the bishops had only four minor variations from the draft jointly developed by U.S. and Vatican officials.

The revised charter and norms are to take effect for five years.

While several other abuse-related items were also on the bishops' agenda, the bishops, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, also took time to approve other documents and projects, vote on financial matters and discuss the growing phenomenon of lay ecclesial ministry.

Various demonstrators picketed and held press conferences during the bishops' conference. Among them were leaders of clergy sex abuse victim groups, abortion opponents, gay rights advocates, women's ordination advocates, and members of Voice of the Faithful and other groups who have been calling for greater openness and accountability by church officials.

Tasks accomplished

Documents the bishops approved during the meeting included a new Program of Priestly Formation, a statement in support of Catholic schools, a statement on missions and a statement committing themselves to mutual support and correction in implementing the child protection charter. All were adopted by overwhelming margins.

The new Program of Priestly Formation will replace the 1992 edition of that program if the Vatican approves it. It sets norms for seminary admissions and seminary formation.

Reflecting the increased awareness of child sexual abuse, the new program for the first time explicitly orders the rejection of any seminary applicant and expulsion of any seminarian who has molested a child or shows inclinations to do so.

It also devotes extra attention to ensuring that seminarians are well-rounded

human beings as an integral part of achieving their mature commitment to chaste celibacy.

For the first time it explicitly addresses questions of sexual orientation, saying that when the Vatican publishes its expected norms on the admission of homosexually oriented men to the seminary or priesthood, U.S. seminaries will follow those policies.

The statement on Catholic schools urges more efforts to make Catholic schools available to all Catholic children and, especially in poor rural and inner-city areas, to non-Catholics whose parents seek the quality of education and values that Catholic schools can offer.

The mission statement reminds Catholics that everyone is called by baptism to participate in the mission of spreading the Gospel to all nations. It especially urges those engaged in teaching and formation of Catholics to expand the missionary awareness and involvement of Catholic men, women and children in U.S. Catholic parishes and schools.

Episcopal commitment

The "Statement of Episcopal Commitment," adopted by a 223-4 vote, deals with the difficulty that by church law, bishops, who are ultimately accountable only to the Holy See and not the bishops' conference on virtually all church matters, could not be subjected to the child protection charter and norms in the same way priests and deacons are. It commits the bishops to report to the papal nuncio any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a bishop and to work and reflect with one another to promote full implementation of the charter in every diocese.

The bishops elevated their Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse to a standing committee and renamed it the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Its chairman will be elected by the bishops and will be an automatic member of the USCCB Administrative Committee, but unlike any other committee of that kind, its membership is to include one bishop from each of the 14 USCCB regions — at least double the size of other standing conference committees.

Also on the clergy sexual abuse issue, the bishops committed themselves to spending up to \$1 million from a re-

serve fund to help pay for a study of the causes and context of that abuse over the past half-century. The study is expected to cost between \$2 million and \$5 million, and the bishops' financial commitment is expected to help generate additional funds from foundations and philanthropists to pay for the entire study.

On another financial matter the bishops who head dioceses rejected a request by their Committee on Budget and Finance to increase their diocesan assessment by 4 percent next year to cover one-fourth of an expected 2006 conference budget deficit of more than \$2 million.

Only the 193 bishops who head dioceses can vote on assessments. While 86 bishops present and voting approved the proposed increase, the 80 who voted against it defeated it, since passage required at least two-thirds approval.

Other items

With a new English translation due soon for the latest official Roman Missal in Latin, the English Committee on Liturgy asked the bishops to approve a series of current U.S. adaptations in the Mass, in use for more than 30 years, in

order to obtain the necessary prior Vatican permission for their continued use before the new translation of the main Latin text is submitted for approval.

Following up on a request by the late Pope John Paul II, the bishops decided that each diocese in the country should establish an annual day of prayer specifically for priestly vocations.

In preparation for a probable debate and vote this fall on a document on lay ecclesial ministry, the bishops heard presentations on various aspects of that issue.

With more than 30,000 lay people now employed in U.S. Catholic parishes as lay ecclesial ministers, working in the name of the church under the authority of its ordained ministers, questions about the role of such lay ministers and their relation to the ordained have come increasingly to the fore in recent years.

In another look toward their fall meeting in Washington, the bishops approved a proposal that their Committee on Domestic Policy, in collaboration with other committees, will develop an updated statement on growing church opposition to use of the death penalty.

Classifieds

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TEACHER, SOCIAL STUDIES: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School has an opening for a full-time 8th Grade teacher with emphasis on Middle School Social Studies for the 2005-2006 Academic year. The ability to teach Middle School Math class is a plus. Must be North Carolina Certified. Please fax or email cover letter, resume, references and required salary range to (336)884-1849 or nachter@ihmchurch.org. Or mail directly to IHM School, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 - ATTN: Principal. Deadline is July 15, 2005.

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FROM THE COVER

Schiavo autopsy does not alter church's pro-life stand

SCHIAVO, from page 1

based on her dignity as a human person."

Schiavo, 41, died March 31, nearly two weeks after her nutrition and hydration tube was removed following a contentious seven-year battle between her husband and her parents. She had been in what doctors described as a persistent vegetative state since 1990, when her brain was deprived of oxygen after her heart stopped.

Dr. Jon R. Thogmartin, medical examiner for Pinellas and Pasco counties in Florida, said June 15 that Schiavo's autopsy showed that the brain damage she suffered in 1990 was irreversible.

"No amount of therapy or treatment would have regenerated the massive loss

of neurons," he said.

Thogmartin said Schiavo died of "marked dehydration," not starvation, but that the underlying cause for her collapse 15 years ago could not be determined.

"The only diagnosis that I know for sure is that her brain went without oxygen," he added. "Why? That is undetermined."

Critical analysis

Doerflinger said some of the conclusions in the autopsy seemed "off base," such as the determination that there was no evidence that Schiavo had an eating disorder before her collapse and the assumption that the shriveling of her brain indicated massive brain damage.

When any person is deprived of water for two weeks, his or her brain is likely to shrink, he said.

Doerflinger also said there is "no established degree of brain damage" that cannot be reversed. "There are people walking around whose cerebral cortexes have been largely destroyed," he said.

Dr. Paul McHugh, professor of psychiatry and behavioral science at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a member of the President's Council on Bioethics, also criticized the autopsy report, saying it was part of the "typical misleading about doctoring and medicine" that is becoming common.

"I'm not contending that she did or did not have PVS (persistent vegetative state)," he said June 17. "Either way, that doesn't excuse killing her."

Writing in the June issue of *Commentary*, McHugh recalled his work "in caring for patients like Terri Schiavo with neuropsychiatric disorders," specifically a patient who "gave little evidence of awareness" 13

years after a botched brain operation.

One day, however, the patient responded correctly and in a full sentence to a scientific question posed by McHugh.

"Somehow, deep inside that body and damaged brain, he was there — and our job was to help him," McHugh wrote. "If we had ever had misgivings before, we would never again doubt the value of caring for people like him. And we didn't give a fig that his EEG was grossly abnormal."

Similarly, Terri Schiavo "was alive," McHugh said in an interview. "That's all I as a doctor care about."

He criticized the mind-set that says, "You're worthy if you're productive, and if you're not productive, you're not worthy of life."

"I'm not going to judge if a patient is worthy," he said. "I'm here to benefit the lives of patients."

Loss of compassion

The Schindler family said in a statement that the autopsy report "confirms that Terri was not terminal ... that Terri had a strong heart and that Terri was brutally dehydrated to death."

"The moral shame of what happened is not erased because of Terri's level of disability," the Schindlers added. "No one would say that 'blind people' or 'brain-injured' people should be put to death. That would be an irresponsible and heartless position to take."

"Tragically, that is what happened to Terri. As a society, it seems that we have lost our compassion for the disabled."

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life, who visited Schiavo hours before her death, said in a statement that she "did not die from an atrophied brain."

"She died from an atrophy of compassion on the part of her estranged husband and those who helped him to have her deliberately killed," he said.

WANT MORE INFO?

Read Father Pavone's column regarding Terri Schiavo on page 18.

Pope says to assist refugees

REFUGEES, from page 1

and tries to help them spiritually and materially. People who find themselves far from their homelands should be made to feel that "the church is a country where no one is foreign," he said.

The pope said that for Christians, there is an essential connection between participation in the Eucharist and charitable acts, including service to refugees.

"Charity work, in fact, is a criterion that confirms the authenticity of our liturgical celebrations," he said, citing Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter on the current eucharistic year.

Pope Benedict said that with participation in the Eucharist, Catholics should naturally take greater interest in the poor and try to build a more just society.

"Those who nourish themselves with the faith of Christ at the eucharistic table assimilate his same style of life, which is the style of attentive service, especially to the weakest and the most disadvantaged," he said.

The pope entrusted the care of all refugees to Mary, recalling that she was a refugee, along with Joseph and the newborn Jesus, under persecution.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said the global number of refugees fell 4 percent in 2004 to 9.2 million, the lowest total in almost a quarter of a century. It was the fourth straight year of decline in the number of refugees, largely a result of voluntary repatriation in countries like Afghanistan.

At the same time, the numbers of internally displaced and stateless people and others "of concern" to the U.N. agency increased to 19.2 million from 17 million over the course of the past year.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Atrophy of compassion

An examination of body and soul is needed in Schiavo case

The autopsy of Terri Schiavo has been released to the public, bringing attention once again to this sad and tragic case, and re-igniting so many of the debates surrounding her life and death. Does the autopsy shed any light on this tragedy? Does it change anything?

The autopsy, of course, is a medical document about Terri's physical condition. It is filled with complicated medical terms and statistics. In and of itself, it tells us simply the details found upon examining Terri's body.

An autopsy is not a crystal ball either into the past or the future. Nor is it a moral evaluation of the worth of a human life.

The big temptation is to stretch the autopsy beyond its purposes and somehow get it to do more than it can do. Some, indeed, wonder whether this autopsy was, from the beginning, a political tool worked out by the euthanasia advocates to advance their agenda regarding Terri. Whether or not that is the case, the autopsy will certainly be used by such advocates to further de-humanize Terri and rob her of her claim for care and protection.

But let's presume that those who conducted this exam did so objectively and honestly. What, then, do we learn?

For one thing, the autopsy shows that all the media reports that so confidently asserted that Terri collapsed because of "an eating disorder" or "a heart attack" should not have been so confident. In short, the autopsy does not provide a basis for those claims, and leaves the cause of her initial collapse in 1990 a mystery.

Was Michael Schiavo at all responsible for her collapse? He claims he was not, but the autopsy does not answer that question.

What the exam does tell us, however, is that Terri died from dehydration. Of course, we knew that already. She wasn't given any water the last two weeks of her life, and we know why.

Michael, and those acting in concert with him, insisted on that and got the

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



courts to enforce their wishes. We don't know if Michael was responsible for Terri's injury, but we do know he was responsible for her death.

The autopsy goes on to say that Terri's brain was "profoundly atrophied" and only half the normal size. Fine. If that's what the experts tell us, there is no problem believing them. But what does that mean, that she was only half-human, only half a person, or that she had only half the rights that the rest of us have?

That is the conclusion that we must never accept. That is a conclusion that does not come from an autopsy, but from a callous disregard for human life.

Terri did not die from atrophy of the brain. She died from an atrophy of compassion. Too many people, starting with Michael, were unwilling to accept the fact that profoundly injured people require profound compassion and care. Even if this autopsy report showed that Terri was ten times more damaged than she was, our moral obligation to respect and protect her life would not change at all.

We don't have to pass a test to qualify for our human rights. An autopsy is a measure of physical damage, not of human rights.

The autopsy says Terri was blind. That is not the morally relevant point. The point is that we are blind — blind all too often to the fact that even the disabled and the severely injured have the same dignity and worth as the rest of us, and show forth the image and glory of God, even in their brokenness.

The autopsy says that Terri was beyond repair or rehabilitation. But that does not mean we are supposed to throw her away, like we throw away a car that is beyond repair.

Again, there is no problem accepting this medical conclusion. But morally speaking, our compassion is not beyond repair. We can build a society that re-

At audience, pope speaks of God's gaze, dons fire chief's helmet, chats on mobile phone

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — With thousands of soggy pilgrims and tourists awaiting his teaching, Pope Benedict opened his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square June 15 with a prayer that "the weather improves."

The day had begun with a major downpour, but by the end of the audience, the sun had broken through the thick black clouds, leading the pope to thank God for "the sign of his kindness, for which we had hoped."

In his audience talk, Pope Benedict focused on Psalm 123, a prayer recited in times of persecution and difficulty, but one that is filled with trust that the Lord will rescue those who love him.

The psalm, the pope said, focuses on "an exchange of gazes: The faithful (one) lifts his eyes to the Lord and expects a divine reaction, a gesture of love and benevolent gaze."

Keeping one's eyes fixed on the Lord, he said, is a common biblical expression for the trust the poor, the oppressed and the righteous have in God.

"The supplicant expects that the divine hands will take action because they work for justice, destroying evil," he said. "The just await God's gaze, which will reveal all his tenderness and goodness."

Due to the rain, the Swiss Guards covered up their uniforms with dark blue rain gear. The guards' matching blue caps were bland compared to the new hat the pope received at the end of the audience; Italian firefighters gave him a silver chief's helmet.

With a practiced hand, a firefighter flicked open the chinstrap, and Pope Benedict put the helmet on his head.

The pope, having spoken to more than 20,000 people, also spoke to someone on a mobile phone.

A middle-aged man in a wheelchair, who was among dozens of people led up to the pope at the end of the audience, handed Pope Benedict a mobile phone

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



and asked him to talk. The pope did so.

Officials at the Vatican press office could provide no information about who was on the other end of the phone or what Pope Benedict said.

ANSA, the Italian news agency, reported that the call was made to a nun who was sick.

ANSA later interviewed the cell phone owner, Emilio Testa, and the 44-year-old nun with cancer, Sister Maria Cristina, a member of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in Angri, Italy.

"When I heard his voice I could not believe it was Pope Ratzinger," the nun said. "I thought it was a dream, but instead it was real."

"He asked me how I was, he told me to stay calm and that he would pray for me," she said. "The most surprising thing was that he remembered my name. He kept calling me Sister Maria Cristina, almost like we already knew each other."

Testa told ANSA: "I knew how badly Sister Maria Cristina wanted to see the pope, but her health would not permit it. So when I saw the pontiff, I did not think twice. I got close, kissed his hand and, without pausing, asked him to pray for Sister Maria Cristina and perhaps say hello to her on the phone."

"The pontiff immediately said 'yes,' took my cell phone and, smiling, began to speak to her," Testa said.

"When it was all over, I started bawling like a baby. I realized that something extraordinary had just happened," he said. "I was happy because I knew that with that call Sister Maria Cristina's heart filled with joy."

spects and protects all our brothers and sisters, recognizing that their value does not come from how well they function, perform or produce.

I will never forget my hours with Terri, both before and after her feeding tube was removed. She responded to me, and she responded to others who visited her. She laughed, she tried to speak, she returned her parents' kisses, she followed us with her eyes, she closed her eyes when I prayed with her and opened them when we were finished.

Medical examiners can offer their conclusions because of what they saw, but none of that changes what we saw. But both we and the medical examiners were looking in from the outside. Any honest medical expert will admit that there is so much about the human brain

we still don't know. What Terri experienced on the inside is a mystery that only she and God know.

The challenge at this moment is simply this: Whatever she experienced, to whatever extent she was damaged, and even if she were totally unresponsive, Terri was one of us. She was our sister, she was a child of God, she was fully in possession of her human rights, and nothing can ever justify what was done to her.

Terri Schiavo was murdered because she was deprived of food and water. We've done the examination on her body. Maybe it's time for an examination of our souls.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Are we overmedicating ourselves?

Alternatives abound to heal sacred

Television advertising of drugs for everything that ails us has gone to extremes. Almost everybody, it seems, is taking a drug for some ailment, at least until the next report comes out telling us that this particular drug is not good for people.

I know I'm going to get criticized for writing about this subject because people are sensitive about their need for medications, including those taken to "prevent" possible medical problems.

I stay away from medications, and I know the roots of this decision. It has to do with my being a pre-med student several decades ago at the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y.; and hearing a lecture by an osteopath.

I interpreted what he said along these lines — that the human body was made to stay healthy and heal itself. Most important was to make sure that one kept the body in balance so that all the internal organs could function as they were meant to.

If something happened to upset this balance, like a fall, an accident or even poor posture, improper eating, drinking or other bad habits, then the organs could go awry. The body could also be damaged by a germ, a sudden change in

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST



temperature or a genetic disorder.

In other words, staying well wasn't a given, but we all had pretty good odds that we could live a healthy life if we maintained a belief that we had been given a body meant to stay well and worked at this.

Given my very strong Catholic beliefs, I saw this lecture as something of a good sermon, affirming what I had come to believe — that God takes care of us. Already I had been impressed with reading somewhere that Jesus was the divine physician.

In the decades of my life, I have never forgotten the words of the osteopathic physician who insisted that the human body was made to heal itself. Many years later, I worked at a university and attended some yoga classes given by a

young Catholic priest from India.

He turned out to be a terrific teacher, explaining that people need to be in control of their bodies if they want to be totally integrated persons, spiritually and physically.

He said we needed to surrender ourselves to the spiritual side of life and to God, and this could be done in conjunction with yoga, which combines breathing control with control of muscular development. He ended each class by having us lie flat on our backs, with our palms lifted to heaven.

Then he encouraged us to let all our thoughts drain out of our bodies as he was talking. This was a way of suggesting the idea of surrendering ourselves totally to the nonphysical world. In other words, we were now in a state where we could really pray, really reach out to God.

Those exercises taught me how to line up my spine, putting my body back in balance, as the osteopath in my college years had taught me was essential.

God does indeed take care of the bodies he gave us, and they are indeed amazing. As poet Walt Whitman said, "If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred." Bravo to the Creator!

Life-changing events

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



A recent article on Pope Benedict XVI in *Commonweal* magazine told how he once was a young, progressive theologian who considered the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas "too closed in on itself, too impersonal and ready-made."

He preferred St. Augustine's personalism in all its passion and depth, and embraced a theology that "had the courage to ask new questions and a spirituality that was doing away with what was dusty and obsolete."

But student unrest at the University of Tübingen in 1968 caused the future pope to do an about-face in some regards and to become in the minds of many the poster child for conservative reaction in theology and church politics.

Pope Benedict XVI isn't the only person to change his life because of an extraordinary event or development. All of us have experienced life-changing events.

Before the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we were conscious of security, but afterward we were inundated by security concerns.

Before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, America was a peace-loving country that successfully had overcome the Depression. After, the United States became the most powerful military force in the world.

The word "event" means a coming or a happening. Life-changing events can arrive or happen at any time in one's life.

For example, a father takes his son to a ballgame. His son is inspired to become a major league player. One event, and a life is transformed.

Events are the soul of life. One thing to remember is that events don't always occur simply by happenstance but often are knowingly and willingly created.

I wonder what would happen if we were more aggressive or proactive in creating events that really make a difference to people. What if parents were more assertive in planning memorable events in their children's lives?

Think how important it might be to bring about the circumstances in which your children could truly learn their family's unique history and ancestry.

Creating a memorable event is not an easy task. Sometimes when we try to make something memorable, the event falls flat. We would rather forget it than remember it.

Producing an unforgettable happening is an art. Like a concertmaster, we must be sensitive to overtones and undertones, when to be explosive and when to be subtle, how to build to a crescendo and how to complete it.

It might be that just one event that we help to bring about or that we create will get the ball rolling and change a life forever.

Bishop's pastoral letter appreciated

Thank you Bishop Jugis for your pastoral letter, "Calling for an end to the death penalty" (May 6).

I have heard Catholics who claim that the teaching of the church "does not exclude recourse to the death penalty," ignoring that the church also proclaims that it is opposed to such lethal force in a modern society that has the sufficient resources (non-lethal means) to protect the innocent from harm.

As you remind us, this also gives the violent offender the opportunity for repentance and redemption, which is the saving work in which Jesus calls us all to take part. God bless you for shedding a light of truth on this fundamental Catholic pro-life teaching.

— Linda Flynn
Charlotte

Letters to the Editor

Wade," May 27).

Although this newest study is very much in the news these days, readers may be interested to know that there are 40 other studies worldwide showing the same thing — that even one abortion increases your risk of a premature baby in future pregnancies.

For example, in 1993 and 1998, Australian researcher Judith Lumley reported in peer-reviewed journals that prior induced abortions elevated the risk of extremely premature (28 weeks or less) deliveries.

While Lumley found that one abortion increases the risk of extremely premature babies by 55 percent, the newer French study shows the risk being increased to 70 percent, strong support for something pro-life physicians and researchers have been recognizing for more than a decade.

Any baby who is born prematurely faces a number of risks and hardships. For the baby born at 28 weeks gestation or younger, research shows the risk of cerebral palsy is increased by 38 times. As Ruse mentioned, there is also a risk of death.

Sadly, the risk of an extremely premature birth goes up steeply with increased abortion. Dr. Byron Calhoun, president of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists, authored research in 2003 showing an

800 percent increase in extremely premature births after four abortions, confirming a massive German study in 1998 with similar results (800 percent increase after three or more abortions).

— Martha Shuping, M.D.
Winston-Salem

Vatican Radio officials should accept wrongdoing

Regarding "Two top Vatican Radio officials convicted of polluting the environment," (May 27), the Catholic Church has always taken "be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth" quite literally without too much consideration of the implications to God's creation.

One thing that the church cannot be accused of is being "environmentalist" or "green," not even at a time of severe threats to God's holy creation.

When the Vatican was recently found guilty of polluting the environment with electromagnetic waves from its radio towers, it had an opportunity to show good example by at least honoring the spirit of Italian environmental law. But no, the Vatican chose to resist and appeal the case.

The Vatican would do well to admit guilt and pay the penalty, even if Cardinal Roberto Tucci has to go to jail for 10 days. Doing so would provide the world with a better example of stewardship.

— Kenneth Schammel
Newland

Worldwide studies prove abortion risks

The writer is psychiatrist and volunteer with Rachel's Vineyard retreats for healing after abortion.

Thank you for the guest editorial by Cathy Cleaver Ruse, which highlighted the recent French study on the link between abortion and premature birth ("Another tragic effect of Roe v.



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Understanding the Mystery
of the Mass, Part 20

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JULY 8, 2005

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VOLUME 14 Nº 36

Restoring our roots

HIRBNIANS REFURBISH
HISTORIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MOUNT HOLLY — With precision and care, a group of Irish-Americans straightened and balanced gravestones in the cemetery of the small, white clapboard church.

The scene may have resembled the work of 19th-century Irish Catholics, who helped build the church and buried many of their dead outside its walls.

Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of Erin Division in Mecklenburg County spent a full day June 25 refurbishing St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly, one of the oldest standing Catholic churches in North Carolina.

See HISTORY, page 5



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Carl Heil (second from right), volunteer caretaker/historian at St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly, supervises the straightening of gravestones by members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of Erin Division of Mecklenburg County, June 25. The Hibernians helped with various repair work to the church built by Irish immigrants in the 1800s.

TOWARD SAINTHOOD
Diocese of Rome
opens canonization
process for Pope
John Paul II

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — The process to beatify and canonize Pope John Paul II opened June 28 with an evening prayer service attended by cardinals, bishops, lay people and representatives of the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, presided over the ceremonial opening of

See SAINT, page 6

Vietnamese celebrates Year of the Eucharist with Mass, initiations

STORY AND PHOTO
BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — St. Joseph Vietnamese Church celebrated the Year of the Eucharist with a special Mass June 26. Father Le Van Tan, pastor, carried the Eucharist, encased in a gold monstrance, during a eucharistic procession preceding the Mass.

A few hundred parishioners, including members of several parish groups, walked in the procession, many of the elder parishioners wearing native Vietnamese dress. During the procession a recitation of the Rosary, prayers of the Eucharist, prayers of Jesus' Sacred Heart, songs about the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart were played over loudspeakers.

During the Mass, nine teenagers and adults were initiated into the Catholic Church and an infant was baptized. Also, new members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus men's group were initiated.



ABORTION ALTERNATIVE

Local women discuss, heal from adverse pregnancies

Elizabeth Ministry helps grieving mothers

BY MADELINE PECORA
NUGENT

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Both Sandy Buck and Renee Pierson expected their prenatal ultrasounds to be happy events at which the health of their babies would be confirmed. They never imagined the distressing diagnoses they would receive.

Casey, Sandy's unborn son, was diagnosed with the fatal condition Trisomy 18. The prognosis was terrible as most Trisomy 18 babies die before or shortly after birth.

"My doctor told me that if Casey survived the pregnancy and the birth, we would have a

See ABORTION, page 13

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Assisting refugees
Grant for ELS classes;
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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FENDING FOR HIS FAMILY



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MAUNG

Ernesto Tuleno, 40, a migrant worker from the Mexican state of Guerrero, shows a photograph of his son, while resting in an encampment near strawberry fields in Carlsbad, Calif., June 9. About 60 workers live in the camp hidden under a canopy of trees and bushes. They are given no support services from their employers and survive on what they can buy or what various church and human rights groups are able to provide. Tuleno sends his earnings to his wife and four children in Mexico.

At U.S.-Mexico conference, cardinal calls for new hope for migrants

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick urged bishops from the United States and Mexico to help make "the New World a place of new hope" for migrants throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Addressing the binational conference on migration in El Paso June 23, Cardinal McCarrick said, "Let our solidarity with them (migrants) and our love be obvious in what we do, even if it means that in this one America we must share our God-given resources in a more equitable way and share our wealth more equitably as well."

Jointly sponsored by the U.S. and Mexican bishops' conferences, the June 23-26 meeting was to consider how to implement the ideals of "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope," a joint pastoral letter issued by the two bishops' conferences in 2003.

Building on the themes of migration in the Gospels, the church's teachings on just treatment for migrants and Pope John Paul II's call for solidarity in "The

Church in America," the cardinal offered three suggestions for dealing justly with migrants in the hemisphere.

First, "we must change the minds of people about migrants," he said. "We must try to change their hearts and seek to address their fears."

Second, "we must ultimately change the laws affecting migrants, immigrants and refugees in both" the U.S. and Mexico, said the cardinal.

He said U.S. immigration laws lead to the separation of families, the violation of human dignity and sometimes to tragic deaths in the desert. "In Mexico as well, we must work to ensure that migrants are not harmed and abused."

Finally, Cardinal McCarrick called on the bishops to "continue to provide pastoral care to migrants and their families."

"Those who find themselves outside their own country as they seek a better life for themselves or for their children must be aware that the church will meet their spiritual needs no matter where they are on the migration journey," he said.

Knights of Columbus sets new record for charity in 2004

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus set new records for charitable giving and volunteer hours in 2004.

The results of the Knights' annual survey of fraternal activity for 2004 show that total contributions to charity at all levels climbed to \$135,753,039, exceeding the previous year's total by more than \$5 million.

The survey also showed that Knights devoted an estimated 63 million hours to charitable work last year. Members contributed another 9.3 million hours to fraternal service activity.

There were 407,746 Knights of Columbus blood donors during the year, and Knights made more than 6 million visits to the sick and the bereaved.

Cumulative figures show that over the past decade, the Knights of Columbus has donated \$1.174 billion to charity, and provided in excess of 560 million hours of volunteer support for charitable causes.

Knights of Columbus in Ontario led

the way in charitable giving, with \$7.6 million, followed by California (\$6.6 million) and Quebec (\$5.7 million).

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest lay Catholic organization, with 1.7 million members in the United States, Canada, Philippines, Mexico and Central America.

Gerry Kissel, an artist and graphic designer from Springfield, Mo., was officially designated the organization's 1.7 millionth member when he joined April 26.

"Hitting the 1.7 million member mark represents an enormous milestone in the history of the growth of the Knights of Columbus," said Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight. "I'm proud of every Knight who has brought in a new member this year, and thank each of them for helping to make the Knights of Columbus the very best fraternal benefit society in the world."

The Knights of Columbus was founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in New Haven in 1882.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* July 16 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The *Society of Mary and Martha* meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Faith Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and third Mondays of each month. The group will read "The Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese and a chapter will be covered every meeting. For more information, call Jordan (704) 737-1964 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, St. Brigid Division 1*, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, meet the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554 0720.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. Charlotte, NC 28226, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division*, the oldest

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope chooses 'In Truth, Peace' as theme for World Peace Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When founded on the truth about the human person and human dignity, peace creates an atmosphere where people grow in righteousness and love, said the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

"In Truth, Peace" is the theme Pope Benedict XVI has chosen for the Jan. 1 celebration of World Peace Day.

The Vatican published the theme June 25 along with a brief explanation of the theme by the council.

The pope's message for World Peace Day will be released in December.

The council's presentation quoted heavily from the Second Vatican Council's document on the church in the modern world, particularly its insistence that true peace is the result of justice and righteousness and not simply a matter of

finding a balance between opposing forces.

Peace, the Second Vatican Council said, "is the fruit of that right ordering of things" according to God's plans for creation.

The Vatican's explanation of the peace day theme said true peace allows people the space and freedom to seek the truth about themselves, about life and about God. A thirst for truth, therefore, translates into a desire for peace and for order.

"True peace is also pacifying," the Vatican said. "It reconciles and brings people out of their isolation. Truth enlightens and helps people see the path for authentic human relations, allows them to correct errors, to reconcile themselves with others, to be transparent in negotiations and faithful to their word."

more information, call Howard Platz at (828) 389-0335 or Judy Lott at (828) 835-3359.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — All young adults, single or married, are invited to *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Theology on Tap is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. Theology on Tap will meet July 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. at Mi Pueblo Mexican Restaurant, 644 S. Stratford Rd. For more information, e-mail ws_tontap@yahoo.com.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. will present the *Gospel of John Catholic Scripture Study*, a 30-week program whose members learn the Scriptures, and come to a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. The class is forming now for Fall 2005. For more information, visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com. Please register by July 17 to Juliann Demmond at (336) 996-7136 or rjdemmond@netzero.com, or call Betsy Hoyt at (336) 996-6396.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

HICKORY VICARIATE

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — Father Matthew Habinger will conduct a free three-hour workshop, "*God's Plan for Human Love*," at St. James Church, 139 Manor Ave., July 16. The workshop will include talks by two local NFP-only physicians and a witness couple. Childcare will also be available. For details and to RSVP, call Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 or e-mail sujo94@aol.com.

CONCORD — Father Matthew Habinger of the *Natural Family Planning Outreach* will celebrate all the Masses at St. James Church, 139 Manor Ave., the weekend of July 16 and 17. For information on NFP outreach, visit www.nfpoutreach.org. For general details, call Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 or e-mail sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY and HAYESVILLE — Liz Ducas will lead a summer mission at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. in Murphy, and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Highway 64 West in Hayesville, July 6-20. The topic of the mission will be "*Eucharist or the Life of the World*." Noon Services will alternate between the churches and evening Mass. For

Catholic-Russian Orthodox dialogue proceeds slowly, cardinal says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even with Pope Benedict XVI pledging to make ecumenism a priority of his pontificate and the Russian Orthodox Church welcoming his election, the Catholic-Russian Orthodox dialogue is proceeding slowly.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, visited Moscow June 20-23 for talks with his Russian Orthodox counterpart, Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad.

The cardinal did not meet Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II, but he told a Moscow Catholic newspaper that no meeting had been planned.

"I did not ask to meet him because we are still at the beginning of our work," Cardinal Kasper said. "Our aim now is to discuss some technical and concrete matters."

Cardinal Kasper said that Metropolitan Kirill had a half-hour meeting with Pope Benedict at the Vatican in April when the Orthodox leader was in town for the pope's inauguration.

"They decided to continue the dialogue about the principal problems existing in our relations," the cardinal said.

"Right now we are trying to continue and perhaps deepen the dialogue."

Cardinal Kasper said he was not expecting any breakthrough in the relationship, but was hoping relations would improve with "small steps" forward.

While the Russian Orthodox Church continues to complain to the Vatican about the activities of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Cardinal Kasper said, "It is not my task to speak about questions tied to another church."

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is in communion with Rome and requires papal approval for some of its activities, but is considered a self-governing church for the most part.

Cardinal Kasper said his discussions with Metropolitan Kirill were focused on "what the Holy See and the Russian Orthodox Church can do together in Europe and for Europe, to support Christian values in Europe."

At the end of the meetings, the Russian Orthodox Church issued a press release saying the focus had been "cooperation between the Orthodox and Catholic churches in consolidating Christian spiritual and moral values."

Suffering in the Sudan



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A 4-year-old Sudanese boy lies on the ground after collapsing from hunger at a feeding center run by Doctors Without Borders in the village of Paliang, Sudan, May 25. Millions of Sudanese are facing very difficult conditions and as many as 180,000 are dead after attacks by Arab militias backed by the Sudanese government.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

July 17 — 11 a.m. Mass
St. Bernadette Church, Linville

July 19 — 5:30 p.m.
Catholic Social Services Board Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

CORRECTIONS

Father Larry LoMonaco's name was misspelled in the Pastoral Assignments (June 24). Also, Father Luis Osorio was left off the list — he has been assigned as pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville effective July 5.

Decades of devotion

LONGTIME VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
RETIRES FROM REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT OFFICE

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — After 22 years of welcoming refugees to North Carolina, Sonia Hayden is saying goodbye.

Hayden, volunteer coordinator for Catholic Social Service's Refugee Resettlement Office in the Diocese of Charlotte, was honored by co-workers and friends during a retirement party at the diocesan Pastoral Center June 17. Her last day with the diocese was June 30.

While Hayden facilitated volunteers to assist new refugees, she said her some of her fondest memories are working directly with the refugees.

"Doing the everyday things they needed was satisfying, especially teaching them English," she said. "I still see some of them, and hearing them speak English now is a joy."

"We help a lot of people often in very stressful situations. Sonia is sensitive and caring toward the refugees, many of whom were trying to reconnect with family, children," said Linda Campbell, Refugee Resettlement Office's employment case coordinator.

"Sonia radiates Christ's love and has a calming effect on them," said Campbell. "She really listens to them and gives them hope."

Hayden is credited with expanding the volunteer program.

"She developed the program and made it an integral part of the Refugee Resettlement Office," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Sonia made it into a real outreach to parishes and other community organizations to partner and work with the agency to help refugees," said Thurbee.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Sonia Hayden, with CSS's Refugee Resettlement Office, shares a laugh with co-workers during her retirement party at the diocesan Pastoral Center June 17. Hayden is retiring after 22 years.

Thurbee said Hayden's warmth and dedication inspired the volunteers.

"I couldn't have done this job without the dedication of the volunteers," said Hayden.

Hayden plans to travel, visit her grandchildren and take a cruise or two.

"I am also writing a book on the refugees' experiences," she said.

"Sonia may never know the extent of her 22 years of helping refugees and placing volunteers, but it's certain they will never forget her," said Ciria Ponce, Refugee Resettlement Office director.

"Sonia has a bright smile and attitude that we miss when she's off (from work) on Wednesdays," said Campbell. "When she's gone, every day will be Wednesday for a long time."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Refugee Resettlement Office, go online at www.cssnc.org/refugee.html.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Verizon grant helps ELS classes for refugees

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Verizon Foundation recently gave a \$4,000 grant toward the English as a Second Language (ESL) classes of Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Verizon Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations within the United States. The foundation supports literacy, domestic violence prevention and technology.

"The funds will help us continue the much-needed English language classroom instruction for our refugee clients," said Ciria Ponce, CSS Refugee Resettlement Office director.

"The ESL classes help the refugees become self sufficient," said Luz Vickers, ESL project director. "If they understand the English language, they can better navigate life in the United States. The classes make a significant impact on the refugees' efforts to start a new life here."

Currently, the ESL classes, which are offered at two locations in Charlotte, consist primarily of Montagnards from the highlands of Vietnam and Bantu tribal people from Somalia in eastern Africa.

The Montagnards are Christians who aided U.S. Special Forces during the 1960s, and many became prisoners in re-education camps after the Vietnam War ended. Hundreds have settled in Charlotte since the mid-1970s.

The Bantu are a minority clan in Somalia whose persecution includes confiscation of their lands and denial of some

basic rights. The CSS Refugee Resettlement Office resettled 123 Bantu people in the Diocese of Charlotte in 2004.

Since 1975, the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office has assisted in the resettlement of more than 8,000 refugees from 26 nationalities in Charlotte.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about or to volunteer with the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office ESL classes, contact ESL coordinator Jennifer Girard at (704) 370-3255.

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FROM THE COVER

Hibernians refurbish historic church

HISTORY, from page 1

"We wanted to give back to our Irish heritage and do something for this place," said Matt Crawley, a Hibernian. "This is where our ancestors from Ireland came. It's Irish history and Catholic history."

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, founded in 1836, describes itself as the oldest lay Catholic organization in the United States. The Church of St. Joseph and Mary, known as St. Joseph Church since the Civil War, was built by Irish immigrant gold miners in the 1800s.

The church accommodates maybe 100 parishioners. It has no electricity, no bathroom; six large windows were used to light and heat the church.

A small room for a priest is located at the rear of the church; on the Spartan walls are 19th-century photographs showing how Catholicism's roots in North Carolina took hold at this tiny church near the banks of the Catawba River.

"Our ancestors laid the groundwork. We're continuing what they started," Crawley said. "We want to bring the church back as close as it can be."

"I don't turn down any help," said Carl Heil, a parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont and volunteer caretaker of St. Joseph Church since 1993. "I'm thrilled to have them (Hibernians) over here."

The Hibernians righted gravestones, weeded and cleared brush, and painted and cleaned the structure, helping preserve the church's history and presence.

"Otherwise it would be a major loss in history, and we learn from history," said Hibernian Evan O'Donnell, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. "We would make mistakes if we didn't



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Evan O'Donnell, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, explores the historic St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly with his son, Patrick, June 25.

have history to learn from."

Back in the day

The discovery of gold in North Carolina lured miners from Ireland to what is now Gaston County. Six Irish Catholic families living on the western bank of the Catawba worshipped in a chapel inside the home of Chevalier Riva De Finola, the French-Italian owner of several gold mines.

De Finola hoped to build a church,

but plans were deferred when his mines were closed by an 1832 court injunction.

"The (miners) were very poor ... all they had were their lands ... but being very dedicated Catholic people from Ireland, they wanted a church," said Heil.

A missionary priest, Father J.J. O'Connell, traveling via horseback across Georgia and the Carolinas, brought infrequent Masses to the area, but the remaining miners wanted to establish a parish. One of the families offered to donate more than six acres if the bishop of Charleston, S.C., would build them a church. At that time, the Diocese of Charleston encompassed both North and South Carolina and Georgia.

Bishop John England of Charleston agreed, but only if the families helped raised construction money. The bishop assigned a priest to the area and St. Joseph Church

HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Early 1800s — Irish Catholic gold miners settle in Mount Holly area. Missionary priest brings Mass to the area infrequently.

1883 — Bishop of Charleston assigns Father T.J. Cronin to serve Catholics in Mount Holly.

1843 — St. Joseph Church completed by Irish immigrants.

1844 — Church dedicated, becoming fourth Catholic church in N.C.

1876 — Church closed; parishioners placed under care of Belmont Abbey.

1970s — Designated as National Historical Site by North Carolina and U.S. Department of Interior.

1993 — Sesquicentennial celebration held. Carl Heil becomes volunteer caretaker/historian.

2005 — St. Joseph Church and St. Paul Church in New Bern (first Catholic church, built in 1841) stand as two oldest Catholic churches in N.C.

was completed in 1843. The Irish immigrants were so thrilled they inscribed "Habemus Altare" ("We have an altar") above the humble altar.

Bishop Ignatius Reynolds, second bishop of Charleston, dedicated the church in 1844, making St. Joseph Church the fourth Catholic church in North Carolina. During the same year, St. Paul Church in New Bern, the state's first Catholic church built in 1841, was dedicated (churches had also been built in Raleigh and Fayetteville). Today, St. Joseph and St. Paul churches stand as the oldest Catholic churches in the state.

After the Civil War, all but one of St. Joseph Church's families remained, and when Belmont Abbey opened nearby in 1876, area Catholics were relegated under the care of the Benedictine monks.

St. Joseph Church was mostly neglected over the years, said Heil.

Continuing efforts

In the early 1970s, under then-Bishop Michael Begley of Charlotte, the church exterior, altar and pews were restored to its 19th-century splendor.

"All they did was refinish what was here. Nothing was replaced," said Heil.

In 1979, the church was designated as a National Historical Site by the State of North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Interior. In October 1993, Msgr. John J. McSweeney, then-diocesan administrator, celebrated the sesquicentennial celebration of St. Joseph Church.

The continuing upkeep efforts of Heil and others, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, are a tribute to the immigrants' faith.

"It's here for everybody to enjoy," said Heil. "But there are those who do not know this place exists. It's such a shame."

The Hibernians plan to make repairs at the church an annual service project.

"We've got our teeth in it now, and there's a lot of work to do," said Crawley.

Heil offered a reason for the church's longevity.

"We've had many chances of this place burning down, because there's no water on the property; there hasn't been a well here since the 1800s. Yet nothing's ever happened," he said. "The Lord's kept his eye on it."

WANT MORE INFO?

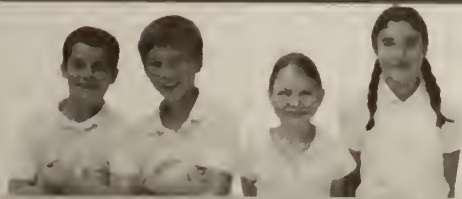
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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly, built by Irish immigrants in the 1800s, now stands as one of the oldest Catholic churches in North Carolina.

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Rome opens canonization process for Pope John Paul

SAINT, from page 1

the Rome Diocese's investigation into "the life, virtues and fame of holiness of the servant of God, Pope John Paul II."

He began by thanking Pope Benedict XVI for accepting "the choral and ardent pleas raised by the people of God" to waive the normal five-year waiting period before Pope John Paul's cause could begin.

While the June 28 ceremony was the official beginning of the process, it was clear much work already had been done.

Cardinal Ruini had appointed a Polish priest working in the Rome tribunal, Msgr. Slawomir Oder, to be the postulator of the cause.

The postulator promotes the cause by identifying witnesses to testify about the candidate's life and holiness, collecting the candidate's writings, compiling his biography, gathering evidence that he has a widespread reputation for holiness and looking into claims by the faithful that they were healed through his intercession.

Oaths and witnesses

During the opening ceremony at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome's cathedral, Msgr. Oder presented Cardinal Ruini with a list of some 100 people who

will be called to testify about their knowledge of Pope John Paul.

While "reserving the right to present other witnesses," Msgr. Oder formally vowed not to "say or do anything directly or indirectly that would offend justice or limit the freedom of the witnesses; I swear, finally, to maintain the secrets to which those having a part in this cause are held."

One of those secrets is the identity of the people on the list, although Msgr. Oder told Catholic News Service earlier that not all the witnesses are Catholics.

Cardinal Ruini, the judges and the notaries involved with the cause took oaths promising to carry out their assigned tasks in investigating "the life and virtues" of Pope John Paul, as well as any miracles attributed to his intercession.

They also were asked to swear they would not accept "any type of gift" meant to influence their work.

Holy conviction

Cardinal Ruini read a long biography of Pope John Paul, which, he acknowledged, "could appear superfluous given how great and universal knowledge of him is and given how deep and unanimous is the conviction of his holiness."

The cardinal said that as archbishop of Krakow under the communist regime, the pope "knew how to unite his intellec-



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Italian Cardinal Camillo Ruini signs a document opening the process of beatification and canonization for Pope John Paul II in Rome June 28. Pope Benedict XVI waived the normal five-year waiting period for the late pope May 13.

tual strength and artistic genius with a passionate love for Christ, for the church and for men and women."

His 1978-2005 pontificate, the cardinal said, was marked by a deep love and concern for "humanity wherever it was threatened," by untiring efforts to promote peace and help the poor, and by an unwavering call to defend every human life and the traditional family.

"At the root of all this untiring apostolic activity, there clearly was the intensity and profundity of the prayer of John Paul II — which many of us witnessed directly — that intimate union with God that accompanied him from his childhood to the end of his earthly existence,"

Cardinal Ruini said.

The cardinal prayed that God would help the process to beatify and canonize Pope John Paul reach its conclusion soon.

In an interview published June 28, *Avvenire*, the Italian Catholic daily, asked Msgr. Oder about a rumor that Pope John Paul could be canonized without first being beatified.

"At this point, I can say only that that is a pious hope," Msgr. Oder answered. "Our technical approach is the 'normal' one," working first toward beatification.

"But, certainly, the competency belongs to the Holy Father, and he could decide what he wants," the monsignor said.

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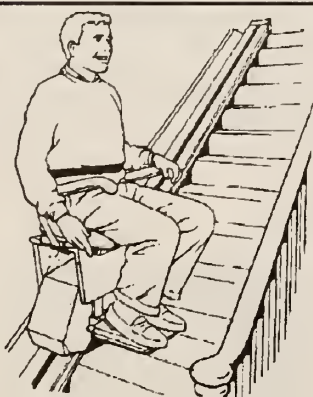
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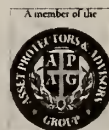
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YEAR OF THE EUCHRIST

Celebrating culture, faith



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS



St. Joseph Vietnamese Church celebrated the Year of the Eucharist with a eucharistic procession and Mass June 26. The procession included members of Sacred Heart of Jesus men's group, Eucharistic Youth Group, Catholic Mother's Group and many parishioners. During the Mass, a group of adults were baptized, confirmed and received first Communion.

YEAR OF THE EUCHRIST
More information about the diocesan Eucharistic Congress, Sept. 23-24, is available at www.goeucharist.com.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 20

Last time, we began our investigation of the Canon, or Eucharistic Prayer, which begins the second movement of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, known as the consecration.

In the consecration, we unite ourselves with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the high priest and victim, and thereby render true worship to the Father and receive the fruit of our redemption. Let us continue with our study of the Eucharistic Prayer to trace the elements that unfold this mystery of our salvation.

Since the advent of the Novus Ordo (New Mass), authorized by Pope Paul VI after the Second Vatican Council, there are several options for the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass: four common Eucharistic Prayers — three prayers that may be used for Masses with children and two that may be used for Masses of reconciliation.

The first Eucharistic Prayer, commonly known as the Roman Canon, originated in Rome at the end of the fourth century. It developed its present form around the seventh century and has had no significant changes since. In fact, the Roman Canon was the only Eucharistic Prayer used extensively in the Roman Rite since the Council of Trent (1563) until the Second Vatican Council (1965).

This prayer contains two lists of saints: the first includes the apostles and the early popes, while the second list includes many early martyrs.

The second Eucharistic Prayer is the shortest and is similar to the text of St. Hippolytus around the year 215. The third Eucharistic Prayer is rich with Eastern influences (such as the Alexandrian, Byzantine and Maronite rites) and emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, the fourth Eucharistic Prayer provides a fuller summary of salvation history and relies extensively on biblical events.

Within the variety of Eucharistic Prayers, there are certain commonalities that define them as Eucharistic Prayers. The Eucharistic Prayer is composed of several parts that can be distinguished as follows: 1) Thanksgiving (Preface), 2) Acclamation (Sanctus), 3) Epiclesis, 4) Institution Narrative and Consecration, 5) Anamnesis (Memorial), 6) Offering, 7) Intercessions and 8) the final doxology (GIRM #79).

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



The Eucharistic Prayer actually begins with the Preface and its customary dialogue between the celebrant and the congregation. Ever since the third century, this series of three verses and responses has marked the introduction of the Preface.

Here is established the ultimate purpose of the Mass: *Dignum et iustum est* ["It is right and just"]. Immediately following this dialogue is the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer mentioned above: Thanksgiving.

As with the Eucharistic Prayers, there is a variety of Prefaces that change depending upon the day, the festivity or the liturgical season of the year. The Preface expresses profound praise and gratitude to the Father for the wonders of his creation and the wonderful work of redemption accomplished by his divine Son. Each preface concludes by singing the unending hymn of praise, called the Sanctus.

The Sanctus is sung by all and is the second part of the Eucharistic Prayer. What is the origin of this mysterious hymn? The Sanctus was added to the Mass by Pope St. Sixtus (119-128). This hymn is composed of two parts.

The first part, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory," is taken from the vision of the Prophet Isaiah (6:1-3), where he saw the Lord sitting upon the throne surrounded by angels singing this hymn.

The second part, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest," is taken from the shouts of praise offered to Jesus as he made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:9).

In the Sanctus, we unite ourselves to the angelic voices of heaven as we draw near to the divine throne and await the coming of our Savior. The Sanctus is the final warning of the imminent approach of our Lord, who will become truly present in a few moments in the consecration. With haste we unite our voices with the heavenly host of angels and saints and await our Savior's coming.

Next time, we will continue with our examination of the Epiclesis and the Institution Narrative and Consecration.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

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Living life in the fast lane

Internship program at Speedway gives Abbey students advantage

BELMONT — The deafening roar of engines. The heat of the track. The cheers rising from fans in the stands.

Many people say there is nothing like it — the sights and sounds at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, the home of NASCAR.

Now students at Belmont Abbey College will get an exclusive look into the inner workings and behind-the-scenes drama of one of America's fastest-growing sports.

Lowe's Motor Speedway and the college have partnered to give practical on-the-job experience to students who excel in the classroom. The partnership gives Abbey students exclusive rights to the first of six internships offered at the speedway in the fall and spring semesters.

The internships involve various areas of operations including sales, marketing and public relations, events, administration, general operations and tickets.

H.A. "Humpy" Wheeler, speedway president and member of the Abbey's board of trustees, will personally review all resumes from the college for the fall and spring semesters.

"We are extremely grateful to Mr. Wheeler and everyone at Lowe's Motor Speedway for this opportunity and what it will mean for students at the Abbey," said Dr. William Thierfelder, Belmont Abbey College president.

"It is truly an exciting venture for our

students, who excel in the classroom, to now also have the practical experience of applying what they learn into a business setting with one of the country's leading sports companies," he said.

Although Lowe's already has internship programs with other colleges and universities, Abbey students will have priority.

"The Abbey is a very special place, giving its students a true sense of purpose," said Wheeler, whose father served as athletic director, coach and faculty member at the Abbey. "We're hoping to nurture that with this new internship program."

Belmont Abbey College also plans to develop curriculum related to motorsports management in the near future.

The Abbey's new chair of the business department, Dr. Philip Bayster, will work with faculty members to further build the college's business program, providing students with learning experiences in courses and internships.

Bayster plans to lead the business department in seeking accreditation, increasing internship opportunities for the Abbey's students and building relationships with the local business community.

With the majority of racing teams based within 30 miles of the track and a number of racing events held each year, Lowe's Motor Speedway is considered the home track for NASCAR.

Changing of the guard



COURTESY PHOTO

New officers for the Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville were recently elected for the 2005-06 fraternal year.

Pictured are (from left): Mike Hamilton, recorder; Tom McMahon, trustee; David Shephard, treasurer; Chip Evans, trustee; George Role Jr., trustee; Tom Fitzgerald, outgoing treasurer; Guy Harley, deputy grand knight; Dick Meyer, advocate; Lance Cancro, grand knight; and Al Livelsberger, outside guard. Officers not pictured are Sal Vita, chancellor; Max Saffer, inside guard; and Jean Dion, warden.

In 2004, Council 8509 raised almost \$22,000 to benefit handicapped adults and children in North Carolina.

The Knights of Columbus, an international service organization founded in 1882 in New Haven, Conn., emphasize charity in each council's local community.

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We believe in development of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. In addition to our outstanding academic offerings, students are encouraged to participate in a wide array of clubs and activities, including Division II athletics, theatre, student publications, and study abroad. Belmont Abbey College invests in the personal growth of its students.

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- Expanded Study Abroad opportunities, including a semester in Ireland and summer courses in England and France
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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Children's books guaranteed to chase away summer doldrums

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The following children's books are guaranteed to chase away those mid-summer doldrums.

"Help Wanted Stories," by Gary Soto.

This book has a multifaceted appeal to middle-grade readers: First, it's great story-telling. The main character of each tale is a middle- or high-school student who faces a problem common to teens, from feeling too gangly ("Teenage Chimps") to feeling ashamed of siblings and parents ("Sorry, Wrong Family").

Most stories include Hispanic characters and Spanish phrases, and the book includes a three-page translation list in

Each story has a Bible citation on which the tale is based, and some stories have small matching or sorting games for nonreaders. For example, "How many colors can you see?" is under the illustration of Joseph's coat of many colors. The book works especially well if older readers read along or read aloud. (Ages 3-8)

"Please Bury Me in the Library," by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Kyle M. Stone.

This is possibly the most clever book of poetry I have read. From haiku to rhymes to free verse, Lewis proves himself to be an accomplished wordsmith with an unlimited imagination.

Each poem has something to do with reading. Stone's colorful and humorous paintings make this book, to steal the title of one poem, "Ab-so-lu-tas-ti-cal!"

It is billed as a book for beginning readers, but, as Lewis writes, "A children's book is a classic/If at six, excitedly/You read it to another kid/Who just turned sixty-three." (All ages)



the back. Stories are told from the perspective of both sexes, yet the problems cross gender lines. The short stories make the book easy to read in short spurts — a fine competitor to TV and computers. (Ages 11-14)

"My Very First Bible," by James Harrison, illustrated by Diana Mayo.

Mayo's colorful illustrations make this book worth buying, but special children's features add to its charm. Large-font story type blends well with the pictures, and some pages contain even larger type with simple phrases or sentences for beginning readers.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 8, 2005

July 10, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
- 2) Romans 8:18-23
- 3) Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Growing in God leads to fruitful harvest

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As the child of farmers and vegetable growers, I've spent much of my adult life trying to get things to grow.

Recently I visited my parents' farmstead in Texas where my mom's lush flowerbeds and my dad's bumper corn crop greeted me. Inspired, I returned to my struggling flowerbeds in Ohio, ready to do battle again with the moles, rocky yellow clay and unfamiliar variables of vegetation, climate and rainfall.

For a Texas gardener, Ohio is a different world that requires patient learning through trial and error and the advice of experienced neighbors.

It was through the lens of that experience that this week's Gospel acquired

fresh meaning for me. I've always taken this parable as an admonition to prepare the ground of my heart for God's word and to avoid those factors that would jeopardize its reception and full fruition.

After all, it would seem that spiritual deafness and lack of understanding is simply a matter of choice.

But sometimes, lack of understanding is part of the human condition of "changing landscapes" — of trying to move from one realm (self-centered) to another (God-centered) with little personal knowledge to guide the way.

If redemption were merely a matter of enlightenment or straightforward choice with guaranteed outcomes, there would be no "groaning" involved. But the seedbed of each person's life provides unique challenges and opportunities that must be dealt with.

We are capable of embracing the word of God joyfully, even as we cling stubbornly to hardheartedness and our own distractions. But as Isaiah claims, that same word is relentlessly persistent.

The psalmist sings of a God who prepares the land and blesses its yield. As St. Paul writes, we have the "first fruits" of the Spirit of Jesus, who not only has shown us the way but empowered us to labor with patience until the harvest.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 10-16

Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23; Monday (St. Benedict), Exodus 1:8-14, 22, Matthew 10:34-11:1; Tuesday, Exodus 2:1-15, Matthew 11:20-24; Wednesday (St. Henry), Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 11:25-27; Thursday (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha), Exodus 3:13-20, Matthew 11:28-30; Friday (St. Bonaventure), Exodus 11:10-12:14, Matthew 12:1-18; Saturday (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel), Exodus 12:37-42, Matthew 12:14-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 17-23

Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 12:13, 16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43; Monday (St. Camillus de Lillis), Exodus 14:5-18, Exodus 15:1-6, Matthew 12:38-42; Tuesday, Exodus 14:21-15:1 Exodus 15:8-10, 12, 17, Matthew 12:46-50; Wednesday (St. Apollinaris), Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15, Matthew 13:1-9; Thursday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi), Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20, Daniel 3:52-56, Matthew 13:10-17; Friday (St. Mary Magdalene), Song of songs 3:1-4, John 20:1-2, 11-18; Saturday (St. Bridget of Sweden), Exodus 24:3-8, Matthew 13:24-30.

WRITERS SOUGHT

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST!



The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

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Made-for-TV movie about Pope John Paul II to air on CBS next season

WASHINGTON (CNS) — CBS plans to air a four-hour miniseries on the life of Pope John Paul II during the 2005-06 television season.

Some secondary filming has already taken place at the Vatican, including St. Peter's Square.

The movie, tentatively titled "Pope John Paul II," has not yet been cast. Plans call for beginning principal shooting this summer. Most shooting will be done in Italy and Rome, with some filming in Poland as well. The movie could land on the CBS schedule as early as November.

Historians at the Vatican are consulting on the script, according to an announcement by CBS.

The made-for-TV movie "will begin with Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the chair of St. Peter," the CBS announcement said.

"It will also explore the 264th pope's fascinating life behind the scenes: how he managed to touch the hearts of millions of people and change the face of the church and the world; how he defended the dignity of mankind against all kinds of totalitarianism — from Nazism to communism to consumerism; and who successfully related to people of all ages," it said.

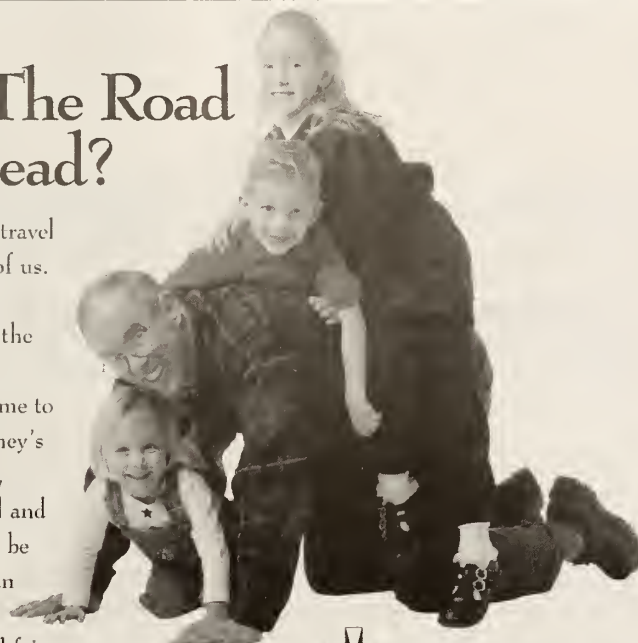
The papal film will be produced by members of the production team that assembled the TV miniseries "Jesus," which aired on CBS in 2000.

"Pope John Paul II" will be an international production, involving the collaboration of Granada America, the U.S. arm of the British production studio; Quinta Communications of France; RAI Fiction, a subsidiary of the Italian state television network; Italy's Lux Vide studio; Spain's Gupe Intereconomia studio; Germany's Tele Munchen studio; and Poland's Baltmedia/Projektor studio.

What's The Road Like Ahead?

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LATIN EXTRAORDINARE

Charlotte teen wins Latin exam

CHARLOTTE — Melissa Brzycki, a recent graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School, received a perfect score on the 2005 National Latin Exam.

Only 1,581 students out of 134,000 who took the test in March received this distinction.

A congratulatory letter was sent to the students' principals and Latin teachers, and a hand-lettered certificate was sent to each of the students.

The exam, which was administered in the students' schools, is offered under the joint sponsorship of the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League.

More than 148,000 Latin students across the United States, Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Niger Republic, Poland, Switzerland and Zimbabwe took the 2005 exam.

This year for the first time, students from China and France also took the exam.

National Directory for Catechesis is published

New book will serve vital role for Catholic educators

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — Religion educators in the United States now have an updated resource for teaching catechesis, as the publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published the National Directory for Catechesis May 1.

The directory was developed by the Committee on Education and the Committee on Catechesis of the USCCB. It was approved at the June 2003 general meeting of the U.S. Catholic bishops and received Vatican approval in December 2004.

It will replace "Sharing the Light of Faith," the national catechetical directory the U.S. bishops adopted in 1977.

The new directory will serve as a guide for all those who have catechetical responsibilities in U.S. dioceses and parishes, especially those responsible for organizing and supervising catechetical



programs such as religion teachers and Catholic-school principals.

In June, Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, presented the directory to the diocesan teachers and principals.

"The National Directory for Catechesis is the proactive way that the U.S. Catholic bishops aligned themselves with the Roman magisterium after the Vatican published the General Directory for Catechesis," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The Charlotte Diocese is looking forward to conducting a general workshop on the NDC on Nov. 3, when an

official representative from the USCCB will provide an even deeper understanding of the document," he said. "The Office of Faith Formation hopes to implement the recommendations in strategies and methodologies in teaching the faith within various catechetical contexts."

The directory stresses the need for appropriate catechesis for all people, including all ages and all varieties of life circumstances — married, single, ill, handicapped, in college, in prison, immigrants, people of different cultural backgrounds, police, firefighters and members of other professional groups.

It provides the fundamental theological and pastoral principles and offers guidelines for applying those principles within the catechetical mission of the Catholic Church in the United States.

"The National Directory for Catechesis provides us with an understanding of the teaching and developments in catechesis that have taken place since the Second Vatican Council," said Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis and chair of the USCCB Committee on Catechesis.

"With the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' ... and the National Directory for Catechesis ... we have two solid tools on which to rely as we concretely respond to the Lord's call to us to baptize and teach," he said.

Throughout the directory, the idea that Jesus is the heart of catechesis regardless of where catechesis takes place is reinforced.

Jerry Filteau of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

Classifieds

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MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Part-time. 350-family parish. Send cover letter, resume and 2 references by August 1 to: Connie Adams, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, PO Box 1052, Boone, NC 28607. Inquiries: email: stelizabeth@boone.net Or 828-264-8338. Interviews and auditions begin August 10, 2005.

RN SUPERVISOR: 2nd shift, fulltime. Care and treatment children/adults MR/DD. Requires supervisory experience, pediatric and/or acute care. Apply in person: Holy Angels, Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 7:00 pm, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd, Belmont, NC. info@holylangelsnc.org

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TEACHER, LANGUAGE ARTS: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School has an opening for a part-time, middle-school Language Arts Teacher for the 2005-2006 academic year. Must be North Carolina certified. Please fax or email cover letter, resume, references and salary requirements to (336) 884-1849 or nachter@ihmchurch.org. - ATTN: Principal or mail to IHM School, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262. Deadline - July 15, 2005.

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Local women grow, bond after difficult pregnancies

ABORTION, from page 1

difficult time caring for him," Buck said. "She said Casey would never live a full life ... and that the most humane thing is to terminate these pregnancies."

When Buck, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, explained to her doctor that termination was not an option, she said she was told, "Then you are on your own."

Pierson's experience was similar.

"Our (unborn) son, Tanner, was diagnosed with a rare kidney defect ... and it was suggested that we terminate the pregnancy," said Pierson. "We decided instead to seek treatment options."

As her pregnancy continued, Tanner's defect could not be corrected, and the doctors kept reminding Pierson and her husband, parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, that a termination was still possible.

"One doctor even called me on the telephone and told me to reconsider my decision," said Pierson. "He said that if I didn't terminate the pregnancy, I might feel guilty later because I could have spared my son such a miserable life."

Buck and Pierson both opted to have their children, and each delivered her son early after going into premature labor on their own.

"I realized that maybe the pregnancy, for as long as it lasted, would be my only chance to be Casey's mom," she said. "I have no regrets."

Buck's son, Casey, died during birth.

"I would do it all over again just for those wonderful hours that we had with Tanner," said Pierson. "He was my pride and my joy, and he changed my life forever. He has deepened my faith, given me hope and left me with such wonderful memories."

Tanner lived for just 36 hours.

The two women met through their involvement with Elizabeth Ministry, a peer support ministry for young families who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Buck and Pierson continue to provide support to those who have experienced a pregnancy loss, stillbirth or newborn death.

Therapeutic abortions

Not every pregnant woman with an adverse prenatal diagnosis chooses to deliver her child.

The termination of pregnancies around 20 weeks gestation (and sometimes later) is called "therapeutic abortion," or "induced labor abortion." Eighty to 90 percent of women now terminate their pregnancies in the wake of an adverse prenatal diagnosis.

Language and circumstance allow this abortion procedure to mimic birth.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mikey Howard, 2, is the son of Jennifer Howard, who carried her son to term despite receiving an adverse prenatal diagnosis about his health.

Many are performed in hospitals that provide obstetric care. In some cases, medical means are used to ensure the death of the baby before delivery, providing a stillbirth.

Parents hold, name and plan funerals for these babies, and often these terminations of pregnancy are treated as perinatal losses.

In some instances, babies have been delivered alive following induced-labor abortions, and reportedly, in these cases, they have then been left to die. It was just this circumstance that led to the passage of the federal Born Alive Infants Protection Act in 2002 when a Chicago nurse went public with the care provided to a Down's Syndrome baby born alive after an induced-labor abortion.

Recently, the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) in Boston, Mass., clarified the Catholic Church's teachings regarding therapeutic abortion in its statement on early induction of labor. According to the NCBC, an induction of labor before term (37 weeks) is only licit if the mother has a serious medical pathology such as chorioamnionitis or preeclampsia.

Inductions of labor performed because the child has a lethal anomaly and therefore will die at birth or because of maternal emotional distress as the result of such a fetal diagnosis are considered illicit as defined by the Catholic Church.

The NCBC further asserts the benefit of providing psychological support such as is available in perinatal hospice for women carrying to term following an adverse prenatal diagnosis.

Vital support

Those at Elizabeth Ministry believe there is a benefit in providing support to mothers and families following adverse

prenatal diagnoses. Many mothers might choose to carry to term if that option were presented as plausible and if services to support them were available.

"I know how much it would have meant to me to have had the support of someone who could have understood my pregnancy with Casey from the perspective of their own personal experience of carrying a baby who is going to die," said Buck.

"The anxiety I experienced as I wondered about the fate of our son who was still alive and kicking inside of me is indescribable," said Jennifer Howard, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, who received an adverse prenatal diagnosis following a routine ultrasound.

"I feared that I'd bring a child into the world who would only live to experience pain and suffering," she said. "I wondered if it would be more peaceful for the baby to end things, but the thought of not giving him a chance was devastating."

Howard's turning point came when a priest put her in touch with another mother at her parish who had carried to term a daughter with a fatal condition.

"Her story and her pictures of baby Claire gave me the first peace I had known in weeks," said Howard. "It was about having someone who understood how I felt and who had survived this experience herself. Spending time with her, I realized I could do this."

Howard's son was born early, too. Despite the grim prenatal prognosis and a harrowing birth, Mikey is now 2 years old and doing the normal things that kids do.

Howard, who works with Elizabeth Ministry in the area of pregnancy complication, admits Mikey's birth and childhood have not been easy medically, but she said people who are unaware of his condition see him as a perfectly healthy, happy and bright child who will celebrate his third birthday this summer.

"Mikey's birth and tenacity to survive what seemed the impossible have taught me to view life in a way that I never could have before," she said. "I am so glad that we listened to our hearts and gave him a chance. He has brought us such joy."

Madeline Pecora Nugent is the author of several books including one for women experiencing a crisis pregnancy and has been involved in pro-life work since 1973.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Elizabeth Ministry, call Tracy Webb at (704) 543-4780.

For the NCBC's Statement on Early Induction of Labor, go online at www.ncbcenter.org/press/04-03-11-EarlyInduction.html

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Barbecue shrimp: First step to evangelization?

Sharing joy, experiences may help others

I just returned from New Orleans, where I was able to enjoy barbecue shrimp.

For those who may never have experienced this culinary treat, barbecue shrimp consists of whole shrimp baked in an incredible butter sauce with Cajun spices. The shrimp is usually served with crusty French bread.

Each restaurant makes it slightly differently, but the common denominator is that it is an amazing dish capable of transporting you to new heights of culinary ecstasy. I love to tell people about this dish and watch their reactions as they eat it for the first time.

While in New Orleans I was enjoying this meal when I overheard the couple next to me debating about what to order. I suggested they try the barbecue shrimp appetizer. They ordered and enjoyed a new experience.

The next day, I went to a different restaurant and decided to once again try this meal and compare it to my previous experience.

The couple next to me saw me enthusiastically enjoying the meal and asked what I was eating. I explained and said they should definitely order it next time they had the chance.

Later that day when I went out to eat with friends, I had them try the dish.

My obsession with barbecue shrimp reminds me of evangelization. In the document "Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States," the U.S. bishops list as the first goal: "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."

The key word is "enthusiasm."

At times, people wonder what is the first step in evangelization. They worry that they may not be knowledgeable about their faith or that they are unable to quote Scripture. They may not be able to answer difficult questions or have not had a course in apologetics.

The truth is that all these things are secondary; while important, they take a backseat to a genuine love of faith — a love that makes people not only curious, but want to partake in it as much as one would want to partake in, well, barbecue shrimp.

Guest Column

FRANK VILLARONGA
GUEST COLUMNIST



The problem is that many Catholics are lukewarm about their faith. It's not so much that they don't understand their faith, but rather they don't feel the power of their faith; they don't relish or enjoy it.

They go through the motions instead of experiencing the joys of their faith. They see it as a series of monotonous rituals that are to be endured and imparted on their children. They lack the experience of faith and with it, the enthusiasm necessary to want to share.

In many ways, we are to blame — and by "we," I mean everyone who understands the genuine joy of being a Catholic. We get enthusiastic about a great many things and are able to feel the joy in them, but when it comes to our faith, we are unable to convey the same kind of energy — we reduce our faith to a series of teachings rather than a powerful experience that has something to offer others in their life.

It's often hard for others to find the "good news" in the Good News. That is why the bishops' first goal is not simply to make others aware of the church's teachings in order to lead others to the truth, but rather to create an enthusiasm that in turn will lead others to begin living their faith in Jesus. Only then will they be able to freely share an awesome experience.

When I left New Orleans, four people had tasted, and six others had heard about, barbecue shrimp. Next time you're in New Orleans, you should try the barbecue shrimp.

And the next time the opportunity rises to talk about something you love, you should try sharing. It may be barbecue shrimp. It may be God.

Frank Villaronga is director of evangelization and ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Knocking on Heaven's door

Graham's message consistent, strong over years

In 1981 I was working as a television reporter at a Charlotte TV station when I got a call from the news director, who was also the station's anchor. His workload was too heavy for him to produce an upcoming news series about Charlotte native Billy Graham.

Someone was needed to spend a day at Graham's home in Montreat conducting an interview, and he wanted to know if I could take over.

Hmm. Would I mind meeting and talking with one of the leading religious figures of the 20th century? Some opportunities need to be carefully considered. But like a skydiver at 10,000 feet, I leaped at this one.

Thus began a relationship with Graham and his ministry that would take me as far as the former Soviet Union twice, and to small American towns as I reported on this spiritually gifted man.

Graham has been in the news a great deal lately as he leads what may be his last crusade in New York City. At 86 years old, he moves slowly, his voice has lost much of its power and zeal and he is beset with the ills of aging.

Long before Pope John Paul II's 1991 statement on communication — "It is not enough to use the media simply to spread the Christian message and the church's authentic teaching. It is also necessary to integrate that message into the 'new culture' created by modern communication ..." — Graham understood that his ministry was a child of mass communication.

Over the years his organization perfected the marketing logistics of bringing the message of salvation to large audiences both in person and through the media of television, radio, motion pictures and the written word. A Billy Graham Crusade is a well-oiled machine that involves thousands of volunteers, who, along with those in attendance, rally around the simple message that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

The news media has a special affection for the first and the last. The first man on the moon or the last game of a superstar athlete each attracts additional attention simply because they represent a beginning or an end. And so it was with

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



much of the coverage of Graham's New York Crusade.

But reporters who were unfamiliar with the evangelist's ministry found that he didn't have anything new to say. He preached the same message of faith in Jesus and salvation that he had for decades.

During an interview I once asked Graham about his work and retirement. He surprised me by saying, "I'm going to retire when God calls me home, and I hope that is soon."

Did he want to die? Not necessarily, he explained, but he did look forward to spending eternity in heaven. That was 18 years ago.

Graham, who suffers with Parkinson's disease as well as various neural and bone problems, has had a lot to say since then. Like our beloved Pope John Paul II, this preacher is showing the world the dignity of growing old gracefully and the spiritual fire that burns brightly even as physical flower wilts.

Who will succeed Billy Graham? Graham has often stated that the Lord has always provided evangelical voices.

Over the years Graham has been closely associated with other evangelists, most notably Leighton Ford and more recently his son, Franklin. But neither has been able to attract the kinds of crowds that flock to a Billy Graham Crusade.

In doing that series of news stories, I asked one of his associates what would happen to the ministry when Graham retired or died? The answer about the future was refreshing. "We look at it from the biblical perspective of 'dust to dust.'"

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dhains@charlottediocese.org.



David Hains (center), director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte, interviews Charlotte born evangelist Billy Graham (seated left) in a hotel in Moscow in 1982.

COURTESY PHOTO

At audience, pope confirms African synod, relaxes with crowd

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — With a dozen African cardinals and bishops seated behind him, Pope Benedict XVI announced that he was confirming Pope John Paul II's decision to convoke a second Synod of Bishops for Africa.

"I nourish great hope that this gathering will mark a further impulse on the African continent for evangelization, the consolidation and growth of the church and the promotion of reconciliation and peace," the pope said June 22 at the end of his weekly general audience.

Pope Benedict did not say when the synod would take place, although it was expected to take several years to prepare. The bishops present at the audience were in Rome to begin planning for the gathering.

The first special assembly of the Synod of Bishops was held in 1994. For the next 10 years, a small group of African bishops met annually at the Vatican to discuss the implementation of the synod's recommendations and new challenges facing the church on the continent.

Vatican officials said significant changes in the situation of the church and society in Africa since 1994 gave rise to the idea of a second synod for Africa.

An estimated 31,000 people had gathered in St. Peter's Square under a scorching summer sun for the audience.

When the crowd began to cheer the pope, he waved and kept repeating "thank you," which only seemed to fuel people's enthusiasm.

"We feel not only the heat of the sun, but also the warmth of your hearts," the pope said.

In his main audience talk, Pope Benedict spoke about Psalm 124, a hymn of joy and thanksgiving to God, who saves his people.

"We, too, can be sure that God will come to save us, even when all hope seems lost," he said.

Pope Benedict said God demonstrates his saving power particularly on behalf of "victims and the persecuted who cry to him day and night."

The psalm of thanksgiving, he said, "can be thought of as our song, the song of the church on earth, expressing our

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



confident hope that whatever difficulties may befall us, the Lord will be on our side."

The pope appeared relaxed and comfortable throughout the audience. Preparing to end the formal part of the gathering by greeting Italian-speaking groups, he hesitated a moment and then said, "Ah, there is still a page to read."

After leading the singing of the Our Father in Latin and greeting dozens of bishops, Pope Benedict went to shake hands with and offer his blessing to several groups of nuns, seminarians and newlyweds. Although the pope did his best to reach all the outstretched hands, several people could not resist tugging him toward them.

At one point, Pope Benedict had to step back so that he could put his fisherman's ring securely back on his finger.

Because of the high temperatures, the sick and the disabled were seated in the shade on the perimeter of the square instead of near the pope's chair. But Pope Benedict, standing in the back of an open jeep, had his driver stop so he could still shake hands and bless the sick.

What if teaching people to pray was your parish's top goal?

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



"I have been saying that we should drop all church programs for a year and just teach our people how to pray!"

This quote by Franciscan Father Richard Rohr raises this question for me: When we summarize all that happens in a parish, what is its primary mission?

Those who advocate social justice would argue that the parish is a prophetic voice in the midst of a secular society; the parish defends the less fortunate and those enduring injustices. A social justice model of a parish would make room for activities such as protecting the migrant worker, advocacy on behalf of improved laws and actions against war, racism, euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion and unjust wages.

Here the parish is seen as a proactive faith community pursuing just causes within and outside its boundaries.

Others tend to view the parish as a spiritual social network in which the community works together to uphold family life, protect its youth, enhance the life of singles and come to the aid of single parents, substance abusers and those on the margins of society.

Here the parish is seen as a proactive faith community that supports its immediate members.

Still others see the parish as a learning center whose primary aim is religious education and learning more about God.

Here the parish is viewed as a center seeking ways to communicate religious knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

We all know that parish life encompasses a range of services, and the various ways it serves its people are wholesome. But what if a parish focused solely on becoming a praying congregation?

What would happen if for one year, the only parish program available was one that taught people to pray?

What if such a program focused on questions such as: When do we know we are praying? Does God really hear our prayers? Why does God seem to answer some prayers and not others? Is there a "right" way to pray? If God already knows everything, why pray? What does it mean to listen to God?

What if a parish made it a pre-eminent goal to encourage and help people to pray, as Pope John Paul II did? I have to believe that all the other ways a parish serves its people not only would fall into place, but would become driven by a fresh and awesome spirit.

Supreme Court did not resolve abortion controversy: It created it

AMERICAN PEOPLE USURPED ON
PROTECTION OF UNBORN
CHILDREN

June 29 marks the 13th anniversary of Casey v. Planned Parenthood, the 1992 U.S. Supreme Court decision that reaffirmed the central holding of Roe v. Wade — that women have a "liberty interest" to choose abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy.

The Supreme Court said it decided to maintain its precedent in Roe v. Wade in part because case law subsequent to and legal principles developed since Roe v. Wade have not undermined its legal basis. The Court said, "No evolution of legal principle has left Roe's doctrinal footings weaker than they were in 1973."

This line of enquiry begs the question of whether Roe ever stood on a firm legal foundation.

Any legal basis for Roe was challenged immediately following its announcement even by scholars who support legal abortion.

In 1973, John Hart Ely, a professor of law at Yale Law School, writing in the Yale Law Journal said, Roe v. Wade is "a very bad decision ... It is bad because it

is bad constitutional law, or rather because it is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be."

The same year, Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe wrote, "One of the most curious things about Roe is that, behind its own verbal smokescreen, the substantive judgment on which it rests is nowhere to be found."

Earlier this year, Benjamin Wittes, a Washington Post legal affairs writer noted, "Since its inception Roe has had a deep legitimacy problem, stemming from its weakness as a legal opinion."

Perhaps most interesting of Roe's commentators is Edward Lazarus, a former law clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, Roe's author. Lazarus, who describes himself as someone who loved Blackmun "like a grandfather" called Roe "one of the most intellectually suspect constitutional decisions of the modern era" and "a jurisprudential nightmare."

Lazarus has also commented on Casey v. Planned Parenthood. He said the Casey opinion was "not an act of constitutional interpretation or lawmaking. Instead, it was an act of judicial and political diplomacy — one designed to

Life Issues

MAUREEN
BAILEY
GUEST COLUMNIST



extricate the Court from the eye of the abortion rights storm."

Indeed, in Casey, the Court said that a "dimension" of its decision in Roe was to "call the contending sides of a national controversy to end their national division by accepting a common mandate rooted in the Constitution."

It is now 32 years after Roe, 13 years after Casey and five years after Carhart v. Stenberg, which invalidated Nebraska's ban of the grisly partial-birth abortion procedure. On the Court's docket for this fall is consideration of New Hampshire's parental notice law.

The national controversy of which the Court speaks is far from over. The Court did not resolve the controversy. It created it. Without any real constitutional basis, the Court usurped from the democratic process and the American people the question of what protection ought to be afforded to unborn children.

The Court said none. The vast majority of Americans disagree. Roe must be overturned.

Maureen Bailey is a public policy analyst with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



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The view from afar

Pope says body, soul can benefit from vacation, especially outdoors

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

LES COMBES, Italy (CNS) — Both body and soul can benefit from a relaxing, getaway vacation, especially one spent in the outdoors, Pope Benedict XVI said from an Alpine mountain retreat in northern Italy.

Vacation time with family and loved ones offers the opportunity to spend "more time dedicated to prayer, reading and meditation on the deep meaning of life," he said July 17 before praying the Sunday Angelus in Les Combes, in Italy's Valle d'Aosta region.

Because today's lifestyles,

See VACATION, page 13



CNS PHOTO FROM VATICAN

Pope Benedict XVI looks out toward the mountains from an Alpine meadow near Les Combes in northern Italy July 14. The pontiff was vacationing at a Salesian villa in Les Combes through July 28.

Planning families the natural way

NFP Awareness Week to encourage 'healthier view of parenthood'

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Church sees sexuality as a gift from God that touches all aspects of the individuals involved — spiritual, moral, physical and psychological, according to Pope John Paul II.

The late pope said in 1994 that the use of natural methods of family planning help couples keep these four aspects in mind as they decide together whether to take advantage of the wife's fertile or infertile periods.

With Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 24-30 this year, the pope's beliefs still hold true, according to many Catholic pro-life and family advocates around the country and in the Diocese of Charlotte.

On July 16, Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed Northgate Family Medicine in Concord, where

See PLANNING, page 7

'The result of a thought of God'

SCIENTIFIC DATA SUPPORTS DESIGN IN EVOLUTION, SAYS CARDINAL

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

NEW YORK — Any evolutionary position that denies the "overwhelming evidence for design in biology is ideology, not science" and incompatible with Catholic teaching, said Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna.

Many scientists want "to avoid the overwhelming evidence for purpose and design found in modern science," he said in an article in the July 7

See EVOLUTION, page 12

Moved by faith: Six from diocese honored

Hundreds gather for N.C. Black Catholic Conference

RALEIGH — Six people from the Diocese of Charlotte were recognized for their outstanding service to the Catholic Church and the community.

The group, along with six from the Diocese of Raleigh, were honored during the second annual North Carolina Black Catholic Conference, held at the Sheraton Raleigh Capital Center Hotel June 24-26.

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, presented the awards to Angella Brown of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem; Dale Brown, Freddie Dewalt and Sandy Murdock of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte; Father

See CONFERENCE, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO BY NC CATHOLICS

African dancers and musicians open the North Carolina Black Catholic Conference in Raleigh June 24.

The pope and Potter

Attention given to 2003 Cardinal Ratzinger letter on Harry Potter

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Youths in Action

Girl and Boy Scouts honor their own with awards, ranks

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Perspectives

Stem cells without embryos: rushing to judgment

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PULLING STRINGS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Jessica Billings of Bloomington, Minn., poses with her puppets at her home in early June. Jessica was inspired by her autistic brother, Jamey, to educate others about people with disabilities.

Minnesota Catholic teen an advocate for people with disabilities

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Jessica Billings was 5 years old when, she recalled, a woman approached her family at a restaurant and complained, "My husband and I paid good money for our meals, and we don't appreciate having him here."

The woman was referring to Billings' brother, Jamey, who has autism and sometimes makes loud noises or has erratic movements. At the time, Billings said, "I didn't even know what to feel." But the experience left a lasting impression on her.

Now, at age 18, the teen has dedicated her life to advocating for people with disabilities and educating others about people with special needs.

Growing up, Billings said, her brother's disability was not something she talked about. But at age 13 she won an essay contest sponsored by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission.

That's when Billings found her voice — and her passion.

Billings founded a program called "Dare To Be Different" to educate youths about diversity.

When she won the Miss Minnesota Junior Teen pageant in 2002, she used

her platform to educate people about disabilities.

Twice she spoke at the Minnesota Capitol about her family's experiences with autism. She also is a volunteer and puppeteer with PACER (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Education Rights), which provides services to families with special needs and performs puppet shows for children.

Through all of her volunteer work, Billings realized that "if we can teach kids to have a strong belief in who they are, then they can make positive decisions."

To that end, she joined Students Against Destructive Decisions at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield. The group helps students avoid underage drinking, drug abuse, driving while impaired and other destructive behaviors.

In May, Billings was named that organization's national student of the year. Next year, Billings will travel around the country to speak to her peers about making positive choices.

Billings said her faith has inspired her to take action in her community. "I have so many gifts from God and I need to use them," she said. "Actions speak so much louder than words."

USCCB official praises G-8 promises to help Africa, Palestinians

Commitments will help make world 'more peaceful,' says bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The commitment made by the world's wealthiest countries to help improve living conditions in Africa offered "hope and promise" to the world's poorest countries, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' international policy committee.

Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., said he welcomed the promise made by world leaders at the recent Group of Eight summit to extend debt relief and to double aid to Africa.

"At a time of sadness, fear and determination following the terror attacks on the people of London, the G-8 leaders have offered commitments of hope and promise. They launched a new partnership in pursuit of a more just, secure and peaceful world," Bishop Ricard said July 12.

At the G-8 summit July 6-8 in Scotland, leaders of the world's industrialized nations promised a \$50 billion package to help lift Africa from poverty and proposed up to \$9 billion to help the Palestinians achieve peace with Israel. Bishop Ricard said the G-8 leaders should take steps to ensure that these goals are reached by 2010.

The bishop also welcomed the world leaders' acknowledgment of the need to address climate change and encouraged them to continue to pursue measures to mitigate the changes and to examine the effects of such changes on the poor.

"Clearly one meeting will not overcome poverty and despair. However, through sustained implementation of ... commitments, our world can become more just and more peaceful," the bishop said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski will present "The Catholic Church's Teaching on 'End of Life' Ethics" Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Ministry Center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., and Aug. 12 at 1 p.m. in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. These events are sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace and the Respect Life and Elder Ministry Programs of the Family Life Office of Catholic Social Services. Call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org for further information and to register. Go to www.cssnc.org for individual fliers on these events.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* will be celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — A reunion for *Charlotte Catholic High School, O'Donoghue School*

and *Our Lady of Mercy School* classes of 1954 through 1965 is being considered for Fall 2005. E-mail Madeleine Chartier Crawford at madeleine@harpermachinery.com or call Joyce Hartis O'Keefe at (704) 536-5049 if you are interested in celebrating Charlotte Catholic High School's 50th anniversary.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Sons of Erin Mecklenburg County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is seeking Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, community activities and social events. Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-mail ncash@aol.com for more information including meeting times and location.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope appeals to London attackers, terrorists to stop sowing hatred

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urgently appealed to those responsible for the July 7 bombing attacks in London by calling on the perpetrators to stop sowing hatred and terrorism.

“I say to you: God loves life, which he created, not death. Stop in the name of God,” said the pope.

After praying the Angelus July 10, Pope Benedict asked the faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square to pray for “the people killed, for those wounded and for their loved ones.”

He then asked: “But let us also pray for the attackers. May the Lord touch their hearts.”

Pope Benedict asked that there be a conversion of heart in those who “fuel feelings of hatred” and “carry out repugnant terrorist acts.”

Meanwhile, Rome and the Vatican beefed up security measures after the July 7 attacks on London’s transit system.

In a statement on its Web site, the group claiming responsibility for the attacks, the Secret Organization Group of al-Qaida in Europe, named Italy and Denmark as possible future targets.

Meanwhile the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, said terrorism today has become “an international plague that does not take account of one’s race, religion, social status.”

Terrorist acts no longer target “the enemy,” but rather “the crowd,” in such a way as to “bring about the most injuries possible” and to provoke fear, it said in its July 10 front-page editorial.

The paper said the best and only way to “unhinge the logic of terrorism, which is the logic of fear,” was to remain hopeful and not cave in to their “blackmail” of violence.

Vatican budget back in black despite weak dollar, drop in donations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican had a budget surplus of almost \$3.7 million in 2004 after running a deficit three years in a row.

Higher investment income and the sale of some property, mainly individual apartments in buildings outside Rome, offset increased personnel costs and a continued drop in the value of the U.S. dollar against the euro, Vatican officials said.

Cardinal Sergio Sebastiani, president of the Prefecture of the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, presented the Vatican’s 2004 final budget figures during a July 11 press conference.

Cardinal Sebastiani also said the 2005 forecast was for a balanced budget; extraordinary costs connected with the death and funeral of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI will be accounted for separately, he said.

Cardinal Sebastiani is responsible for overseeing two separate budget reports: the Holy See, which includes the Roman Curia, Vatican diplomatic missions around the world, Vatican Radio and Vatican investments; and Vatican City State, which includes the Vatican post office and Vatican Museums.

The income reported by the Holy See in 2004 was about \$246.3 million — at July 11, 2005, exchange rates — while expenses were about \$242.6 million.

While salaries for the Holy See’s 2,663 employees rose by 9 percent in 2004, the amount of money spent by 127 Vatican diplomatic missions was lower than in 2003, mainly because fewer new offices were opened, the cardinal said.

The Vatican’s investment portfolio earned about \$7.3 million in profits in 2004, while it showed a loss in 2003, he said.

Cardinal Sebastiani said all Vatican investments meet “ethical” criteria; “we have no relationship with funds that do not provide this assurance.”

Paolo Trombetta, the chief accountant, said that about 80 percent of the investments are in government bonds, while about 20 percent are in stocks.

of Hibernians, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.

HICKORY VICARIATE
HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE
SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents*

Who Have Lost a Child of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others’ experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE
BRYSON CITY — *Court St. Mary, Mother of God No. 2534, of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas*, will meet Aug. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St. Father Shawn O’Neal as guest speaker at the meeting, which will be open to the community. For further information contact Sandy Beauchemin, Court Regent, at (828) 585-1136.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles M. Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women’s Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women’s Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Devastating Dennis



CNS PHOTO BY PEGGY DEKEYSER, THE FLORIDA CATHOLIC

Hurricane Dennis ripped one-third of the roof off the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Pensacola Beach, Fla., when it hit the Florida Panhandle July 10 with 120 mph winds. Ten months before, Hurricane Ivan tore off the roof, rendering the building unusable. New pews were installed in the church two days before Dennis struck, in anticipation of reopening the church on the feast of the Assumption Aug. 15. Now the facility will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 5, Discernment Day
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

Aug. 6, 5:30 p.m.
Knights of the Holy Sepulchre Scroll Mass
Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Sisters of St. Francis celebrate anniversaries

**SISTER GANIEL AMONG
75 SISTERS HONORED
AT GATHERING**

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathleen Anne Ganiel, pastoral associate at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, recently celebrated her call to the religious life with hundreds of her fellow Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

Sister Ganiel, who celebrated 25 years as a woman religious, was among 75 jubilarians with 25, 50, 70 and 75 years of service. They were honored during Jubilee 2005, an event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

The event, which drew more than 600 Sisters of St. Francis, was held at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Aston, Pa., June 19-25.

With inspirational speakers, reflection and discussion, the sisters assessed their progress since their order's 2002 decision-making gathering and decided on what they need to focus on during the next three years.

Since the beginning of the congregation in 1855, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have ministered in a variety of fields, including education and health care, as well as to immigrants, orphans and the elderly.



**Franciscan Sister Kathleen
Anne Ganiel**

The ministries of the jubilarians have taken them to 23 states and 37 dioceses, as well as to Ireland, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Kenya, Antigua and Zambia. Collectively, the jubilarians have offered 4,139 years of service.

The jubiliarian anniversaries of Sister Ganiel and other women religious serving in the Diocese of Charlotte were highlighted during the annual Sisters' Appreciation Day, held in Belmont in June.

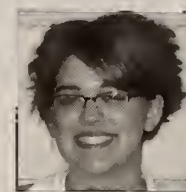
WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, visit www.osphila.org.

For more information on women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious, at (704) 370-3213.

Charlotte youth wins WYD scholarship

**HART RECEIVES \$750 FROM
SFO TO VISIT GERMANY**



Kelly Hart

CHARLOTTE — Kelly Hart, a parishioner of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, recently received a \$750 scholarship to attend World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany, in August.

Hart, an aspiring youth minister and rising freshman at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, won the scholarship through an essay contest sponsored by the Youth and Young Adult Commission of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, Secular Franciscan Order.

She will be one of two winners to join the BSSF's pilgrimage to World Youth Day.

"God once called St. Francis to rebuild his church. I believe that I, along with many others, am being called to this same vocation nearly 800 years later," wrote Hart in her essay.

"Over the past couple of years, I have been amazed at how God has

worked in my life. I have witnessed him truly change me into a passion-filled young Catholic with a desire to serve him in all that I do," she said.

The BSSF consists of Secular Franciscan Order fraternities in North and South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

WANT MORE INFO?

More info on the BSSF SFO, as well as the winners' essays, may be found online at http://community-2.webtv.net/SFO_YYA/YouthandYoungAdult.

GOVERNING BOARD



COURTESY PHOTO

Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, was one of five Franciscans elected to a five-year term on the province's governing board. Pictured are (from left): Father John Burkhard, Father Robinson, Father Justin Biase, Father Brad Milunski and Brother Ed Falsey.

Conventual Franciscans elect leaders

**FATHER ROBINSON TO SERVE ON
ORDER'S GOVERNING BOARD**

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, will help lead his Immaculate Conception Province of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

Father Robinson was one of five Franciscans from around the country elected to a five-year term on the Provincial Definitory, the province's governing board.

Established in the United States in 1852 by five European friars ministering to immigrants, the province today extends from Canada down the eastern U.S. sea-

board to Costa Rica, with a mission in Brazil. Following the example of St. Francis, the friars strive to spend time in service to others, prayer and fraternity.

Father Robinson, a native of Abington, Mass., who entered the Franciscan order in 1964 and was ordained in 1974, served for six years as assistant general to the order. During his 41 years as a Franciscan, he has worked in initial formation and parish administration.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, visit www.franciscanseast.org.



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Rev. John F. Parsons 1993

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Under new leadership

New director looks to highlight black Catholics' legacy

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Making sure the African American Affairs Ministry (AAAM) is a strong body and voice for black Catholics is its new director's top priority.

Sandra Murdock, chairperson of the board of directors of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry (AAAM), has assumed the position of director of the AAAM following the retirement of Deacon Curtiss Todd in May.

Murdock has been actively involved with the AAAM since 1990, and has served as chairperson for the past two years.

As director, she will continue to head the board of directors for the AAAM. She will be available to black Catholics — who includes Africans and anyone of African ancestry — to hear their concerns, to be a voice for them to the diocese and to keep them informed of programs and events of interest, such as the "Revival of the Spirit 2005" tent revival in August.

Murdock comes to the position with more than 10 years' experience with the AAAM, having worked with the ministry from 1990-1995, and again since 2000. She also established Kabaka, a dance and drum group; and Sankofa, an African American heritage program for children and teenagers.

Black Catholics need to be recognized for the gifts and history they bring to the Catholic Church and to society in general, Murdock said.

"Quite often, our fellow parishioners who are not African American have no idea that there were three black popes and that there are black saints," said Murdock. "There are many contribu-



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sandra Murdock is the new director of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry. Murdock is also the chairperson of the ministry's board of directors.

tions that have been made to our religion (by black Catholics)."

Since the AAAM was established in 1985, black Catholics have a "voice" in the diocese they didn't have before, Murdock said.

Murdock and the board of directors plan to expand the AAAM by adding a leadership program for adults, a heritage-appreciation program for teenagers and philanthropic projects to help children in Africa.

There is still much work to do, however, Murdock hopes the diocesan Catholic schools will try to appeal more to blacks — for students, teachers and staff.

"(Black Catholics) need to be involved and visible in all aspects of the diocese," said Murdock.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Hundreds gather for conference

CONFERENCE, from page 1

Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville; and Deacon Curtiss Todd, recently retired vice chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Titled "Empowered by Faith for Ministry in the Holy Spirit," the conference brought together 260 African-American Catholics involved in lay ministry throughout North Carolina for inspiration and collaboration; to accomplish goals set by the National Black Catholic Congress; and to empower and encourage black Catholics to become more involved in the Catholic Church.

"We must find ways to provide and encourage responsible leadership roles for those black, adult Catholics who are by education and professional achievements entitled by right to such positions and who would serve but have often been made to feel unwelcome," said Bishop Joseph F. Gossman of Raleigh during his address.

"Many have found secular uses for their talents and we suffer the loss," he said. "The church needs competent, dedicated black Catholics in leadership positions if we are to survive and grow in the next millennium."

Speakers and workshop presenters included Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, pastoral associate at St. Benedict the Moor Church. Workshop topics ranged from the inspirational to the practical, from "Discerning Your Call to Ministry" to "Learning About Our Heritage Through Music and Stories."

"This is showing how the Holy Spirit is working in the Catholic Church," said Martha Carter-Bailey, executive director of Raleigh's office of African Ancestry Ministry and Evangelization, which sponsored the conference.

"It doesn't matter where you are from. We are all one body in Christ," she said.

Editor Richard Reece of NC Catholics and Sandra Murdock contributed to this story.

SPIRITS TO BE REVIVED AT OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION CHURCH

One of the most important events sponsored by AAAM is the upcoming revival, "Revival of the Spirit 2005," at Our Lady of Consolation Church Aug. 12-14.

The keynote speaker and homilist for the revival will be Franciscan Father James E. Goode. Father Goode is known for his untiring voice for the sacredness of life and for leading the call for the African American Catholic community to support the end of abortion and all other acts of violence against human life.

Father Goode is also known for his work feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, educating the young and old, caring for the sick and those living with HIV/AIDS and caring for victims of violence, neglect and abuse.

On Aug. 12, the St. Augustine Catholic Church Gospel Choir will perform a gospel concert. Founded in 1977 by composer Leon Roberts, the choir has established a legacy of African American-based liturgical music in Washington, D.C.

Over the past three decades, the choir has spread the good news in services, concerts and workshops throughout the United States as well as in Italy and France, performing for Pope John Paul II and former President and Mrs. Clinton.

WANT TO GO?

For more information on the "Revival of the Spirit 2005," see ad on page 8 or call (704) 370-3267.

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Rev. Joseph Koterski, SJ



Msgr. Richard Bellow



Rev. Edward Sheridan

Catholic Church Teaching on "End of Life" Ethics

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**Each presentation will cover the same topics.
Please register in advance.**

Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville — Wednesday, August 10
St. Francis Room/Our Lady Queen of the Angels Chapel
6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte — Thursday, August 11 (Event will be videotaped)
Ministry Center
6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

St. Peter Church, Charlotte — Friday, August 12
Atrium Room, Annex Building
12:30 pm - Lunch 1-2 pm - Presentation 2-2:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

Holy Family Church, Clemmons — Saturday, August 13
Parish Center, Rooms 3 & 4
3 pm - Light snack 3:30-4:30 pm - Presentation 4:30-5pm - Q&A 5:30 pm - Mass
Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

St. Pius X Church, Greensboro — Tuesday, September 13
Kloster Center
6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow, Pastor, St. Mark Church

St. James Church, Hamlet — Wednesday, September 21
Parish Hall
6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Rev. Edward Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church

St. Mark Church, Huntersville — Thursday, September 22
Worship Area
6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow, Pastor, St. Mark Church

St. Aloysius Church, Hickory — Tuesday, September 27
Holy Family Hall
6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A
Presenter: Rev. Edward Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church



**Attendance is free, but please register in advance by calling 704-370-3228 or emailing sabeason@charlottediocese.org.

More details about these presentations are at: www.cssnc.org

Returning home

Program to help welcome back inactive Catholics

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — You know they're out there: Catholics who've been away from "home" for a long time. Their roots are in the Catholic Church, but for whatever reason, they no longer practice their faith.

"Inactive Catholics: Who Are They and How Can We Reach Them?" seeks to change that.

Paulist Father Robert S. Rivers will present the program, which is free and open to the public, at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley Aug. 13.

"In all of our towns there are many people who are Catholic (and are not participating)," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, and vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

"We're going to learn how to identify them and how to welcome them, to let them know that the home doors are still open," he said.

The program's three sessions are "Inactive Catholics: Who They Are and What Do We Know About Them?," "Inactive Catholics: How Do We Reach Out to Them?" and "Successful Outreach Programs For Parishes."

Father Rivers, vice president and director of parish missions for the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association in Washington, D.C., has 25 years of pastoral experience. He is the author of the book "From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish."

"Deeply committed to developing the ministry of evangelization," the conference brochure states, "Father Rivers specializes in preaching and

teaching to help dioceses and parishes carry out the saving mission of Jesus Christ."

Sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, "Inactive Catholics" will especially benefit those in parish leadership positions, such as pastoral councils, evangelization, ecumenical and family life commissions and stewardship committees.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

WANT TO GO?

Father Rivers will present the program at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley Aug. 13. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m., with the program from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch is included.

To register, call St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church by Aug. 8. Call (828) 926-0106, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

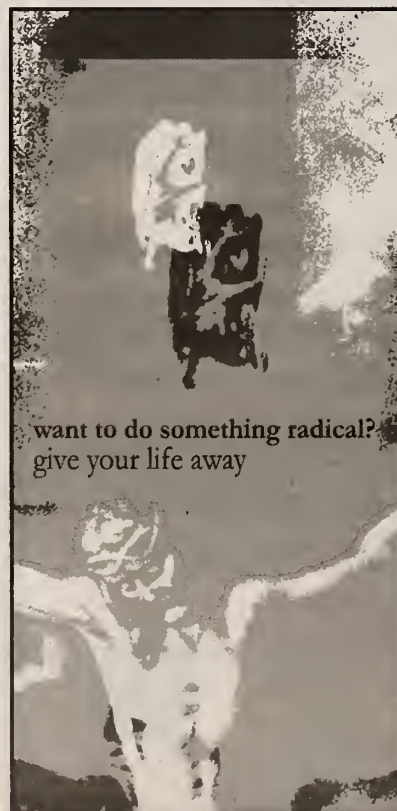
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FROM THE COVER

Parenting the natural way

PLANNING, from page 1

doctors prescribe only natural family planning methods to their patients.

On July 17, two of those doctors participated in "God's Plan for Human Love," a free three-hour workshop at St. James Church in Concord. The workshop was conducted by Benedictine Father Matthew Habinger, director of retreats for St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kansas, and a member of NFP Outreach, a resource center for accurate natural family planning information and principles.

The awareness week, this year themed "Making Good Marriages Great," was started by the American Academy of NFP (now the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals) and is promoted by the Diocesan Development Program for NFP, a program of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

The July dates were chosen to highlight the July 25 anniversary of Pope John Paul's encyclical "Humanae Vitae."

Conception and misconceptions

Developed in 1968 by Dr. Thomas Hilgers, natural family planning is based on an awareness of a woman's fertility as a natural way to postpone or achieve pregnancy.

The method involves interpreting certain signs of a woman's body that indicate fertile and infertile times.

When followed correctly, natural family planning is up to 99 percent successful in spacing or limiting births, according to U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses Northgate Family Medicine in Concord July 16. The doctors at the practice prescribe natural family planning to their patients.

Natural family planning is not the rhythm or calendar method, in which time of ovulation is estimated by calculating previous menstrual cycles. Although the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities states the rhythm approach has sound scientific underpinnings, in practice it often proved inaccurate because of the unique nature of each woman's menstrual cycle.

Natural family planning, by contrast, has been proven scientifically sound in both theory and practice.

Scientific, spiritual benefits

The Secretariat for Pro-Life Activi-

ties reports natural family planning: contributes to marriage enrichment and mutual understanding, and the appreciation for the value of children; fosters respect for and acceptance of the total person; and encourages moral acceptability. Couples who use it learn they share responsibility for family planning.

The Couple to Couple League for Natural Family Planning Web site states that periodic abstinence, such as with natural family planning, helps keep relationships fresh, improves communication and gives couples a deeper respect for each other.

Natural family planning offers couples a scientifically supported way to

regulate births while respecting each other and the integrity of the human person, said Pope John Paul.

In a 2004 message to a Rome conference on natural family planning, the pope said that while natural methods of planning or spacing the birth of a child are based on science, they are not purely technical.

The methods, he said, help individuals recognize each other as "a unity of spirit, mind and body."

Pope John Paul said that while the biological rhythms of a woman's fertility cycle make natural family planning possible the methods should be taught in such a way as to promote an attitude where "every person, beginning with the child, is recognized and respected for his or her self and every choice is animated and guided by the criterion of a sincere self-giving."

The late pope said many people today seem "almost intimidated by the responsibility of procreation," yet at the same time believe it is acceptable to "dominate and manipulate life."

The values taught by natural family planning, he said, help people return to a healthier view of parenthood, respect for God's plan for marriage and sexuality and respect for human life.

Pope John Paul II praised health care workers who, "coherent with their vocation as servants of life," promote research into natural family planning and teach the methods to others.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on natural family planning in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit <http://www.cssnc.org/naturalfamilyplanning>

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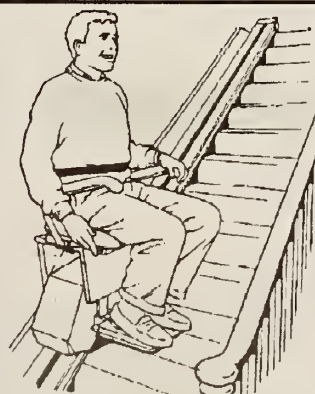
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The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

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David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



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7 pm — Gospel Concert

Music by: St. Augustine Catholic Church Gospel Choir
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8 pm — Preaching

Fr. Jim Goode, Solid Ground Ministry
 New York City

Sunday, Aug. 14

11 am — Closing Worship

Celebrant
Msgr. Mauricio W. West
 Chancellor and Vicar General, Diocese of Charlotte

Homilist
Fr. Jim Goode

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

The good and bad of Harry

New attention given to 2003 Cardinal Ratzinger letter on Harry Potter

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — With the sixth volume of the adventures of Harry Potter, the teen wizard, about to be released, new attention is being given to a 2003 letter from then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

Although the Vatican press office July 14 said it would have no comment on the letter since Pope Benedict XVI and his secretary were on vacation in the northern Italian Alps, a former Vatican official said Harry Potter books must be read as children's literature, not theology.

Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict, wrote to Gabriele Kuby to acknowledge receipt of her book, "Harry Potter: Gut oder Bose" ("Harry Potter: Good or Bad"), which expresses her concern that children can become fascinated with the occult through reading the series.

In the cardinal's letter, excerpted on Kuby's Web site and published widely since late June, he praised the author's attempt to "enlighten people about Harry Potter" and the possible "subtle seductions" that can distort children's thinking before they mature in the Christian faith.

Cardinal Ratzinger did not say if he had read any of the Harry Potter books.

In the letter, Cardinal Ratzinger suggested Kuby send a copy of her book to Msgr. Peter Fleetwood, then an official at the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Msgr. Fleetwood told Catholic

News Service July 14 that he received a copy of the book in 2003 and wrote Kuby a four-page letter explaining where he thought she may have misunderstood or read too much into the books. He said he never heard back from her.

The monsignor, now an official of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences, said the primary focus of parents and teachers he has spoken with about the books is how enthusiastic children are about reading them.

On a moral level, he said, the books "pit good against evil, and good always wins."

In J.K. Rowling's books, he said, "Harry is the only one not afraid to name Voldemort — whom the others all refer to as 'He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named.' Because he names evil, he is not afraid of it," but can confront it.

Msgr. Fleetwood said the most appropriate way to judge Harry Potter is not on the basis of theology, but according to the criteria of children's literature and whether children will read the books willingly.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 31, 2005

July 31, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 55:1-3
Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18
- 2) Romans 8:35, 37-39
- 3) Matthew 14:13-21

God always feeds those with deep hunger

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My brother-in-law was poetry in motion, sprinting across the busy street, juking and whirling through traffic like an all-star running back evading tacklers.

As he dashed through the steady flow of cars toward the hamburger joint, I watched him with a mixture of awe and anxiety — fearful for his safety, awestruck.

The object of his perilous journey was not simply hamburgers for our summer picnic. No, he was risking life and limb for hamburgers that were absolutely free.

In those ancient days when my brother and I were about 14 and 10, we were visiting our newly married sister and her husband at their tiny apartment in

the college town where they lived as nearly starving students. Money was tight, and having two hungry children as guests must have made my sister and her husband feel even more pinched than usual.

The prospect of free hamburgers doubtless appeared like manna from heaven to them, well worth whatever dangers the busy street had to offer.

I remember hungrily even now, more than 40 years later, the mouth-watering sight of that greasy bag of burgers and the heavenly perfume of their onion and pickle-scented aroma. The fact that all this savory goodness was free made the whole experience doubly enriching.

For whom is it good news to hear that the meal is free?

When Isaiah in Sunday's first reading invites people to come to the rich banquet of the Lord, he invites those without money. That must have sounded irritating, or at least odd, to those with cash in their pockets, with good credit at the grocery store, with cupboards full of food.

God feeds us with his word and his body, not because we have paid for it with good deeds and strict religious observance. We can savor just how good this heavenly food is only when we recognize how empty our hands are and how deep our hunger is.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 24-30

Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 King 3:5, 7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52; Monday (St. James), 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28; Tuesday (St. Joachim and St. Anne), Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5-9, 28, Matthew 13:36-43; Wednesday, Exodus 34:29-35, Matthew 13:44-46; Thursday, Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38, Matthew 13:47-53; Friday (St. Martha), Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37, John 11:19-27; Saturday (St. Peter Chrysologus), Leviticus 25:1, 8-17, Matthew 14:1-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 31 - AUGUST 6

Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:1-3, Romans 8:35, 37-39, Matthew 14:13-21; Monday (St. Alphonsus Liguori), Numbers 11:4-15, Matthew 14:22-36; Tuesday (St. Eusebius, St. Peter Julian Eymard), Numbers 12:1-13, Matthew 14:22-36; Wednesday, Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29, 34-35, Matthew 15:21-28; Thursday (St. John Mary Vianney), Numbers 20:1-13, Matthew 16:13-23; Friday (Dedication of St. Mary Major), Deuteronomy 4:32-40, Matthew 16:24-28; Saturday (The Lord's Transfiguration), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 17:1-9.

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Bonds of Scouting



COURTESY PHOTO

Girl Scouts from Brownies 856, Juniors 10, Cadettes 216 and Seniors 288 at St. Ann Church in Charlotte celebrate their end-of-year ceremonies May 24. The event included an opening flag ceremony, where the girls, ranging in age from 6 to 17 years, presented their group flags and recited the Girl Scout Pledge and Pledge of Allegiance, and an awards ceremony in which girls received badges and other awards for various activities and community service. Some girls also participated in a bridging ceremony as they moved from Brownies to Juniors or Juniors to Cadettes.

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Youth wins top award in Girl Scouts

CHARLOTTE — Christine Mancusi, a member of Girl Scout Troop 55 at St. Ann Church in Charlotte, recently earned her Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts.

To earn her recognition, presented by the Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council, Christine developed and instructed free classes on butterflies, reptiles and amphibian survival for the recently expanded Reedy Creek Nature Center in northeastern Mecklenburg County.

She also trained volunteers at the center to present the classes to the public using lesson plans, materials and activities.

Christine is a rising freshman at the



Christine Mancusi

University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where she plans to major in biology.

Six Scouts earn Eagle rank

CHARLOTTE — Boy Scout Troop 8 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte recently awarded six members with the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

Kristopher Bahar, Andrew Birch, Justin Carey, Stephen Carey, Thomas Huckbody and Nicholas Vari received the rank during an awards dinner May 21.

To receive the rank, the scouts had to complete individual service projects.

Nicholas planned and organized a Christmas party for refugees at St. Matthew Church for the Missionaries of Charity nuns.

Birch repaired 120 feet of fencing and built a raised 8-foot square garden at the Missionaries of Charity convent in Charlotte.

Thomas built a concrete walkway at the Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council headquarters in Charlotte.

Kristopher conducted a book drive for Holy Angels, a nonprofit corporation in Belmont providing services to children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation.

Stephen constructed a picnic area



COURTESY PHOTO

Six Boy Scouts from Troop 8 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Pictured from left are: Thomas Huckbody, Andrew Birch, Nicholas Vari, Justin Carey, Stephen Carey and Kristopher Bahar.

and walking area in a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood; Justin repaired a statue of Jesus and landscaped that neighborhood area, in addition to constructing a brick platform for recycling collection at St. Matthew School in Charlotte.

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Humans, the design of God

EVOLUTION, from page 1

New York Times.

"Scientific theories that try to explain away the appearance of design as the result of 'chance and necessity' are not science at all, but, as John Paul put it, an abdication of human intelligence," he said in the article that quoted the late Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict XVI holds the same position as his predecessor, said

Cardinal Schonborn.

The article did not discuss the current debate in the United States over some local public school boards that want science classes to incorporate views holding that creation is the result of an intelligent design.

Cardinal Schonborn criticized unnamed "neo-Darwinian" scientists as claiming that "an unguided, unplanned process of random variation and natural selection" is acceptable in Catholic teaching.

"The Catholic Church, while leaving

to science many details about the history of life on earth, proclaims that by the light of reason the human intellect can readily and clearly discern purpose and design in the natural world, including the world of living things," he said.

"Faced with scientific claims like neo-Darwinism and the multiverse hypothesis in cosmology invented to avoid the overwhelming evidence for purpose and design found in modern science, the Catholic Church will again defend human reason by proclaiming that the immanent design evident in nature is real," he said.

Evolving process

"Evolution in the sense of common ancestry might be true," said the cardinal.

Cardinal Schonborn, who was one of the main editors of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," said that in the debates over evolution "the Catholic Church is in the odd position of standing in firm defense of reason."

The cardinal said that "neo-Darwinists" are claiming that Pope Benedict agrees with their views about an unguided and unplanned evolutionary process.

In refutation, he quoted from the pope's inaugural homily.

"We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God," said the pope at his installation.

In follow-up remarks published July 11 by Kathpress, an Austrian Catholic news agency, Cardinal Schonborn cited Popes Pius XII and John Paul II as saying that the theory of evolution — as long as it remains within the realm of science and is not made into an ideological "dogma" which cannot be questioned —

is in conformity with Catholic teaching.

The cardinal quoted Pope John Paul as saying in 1985 that "the properly understood belief in creation and the properly understood teaching of evolution do not stand in each other's way."

By design

The cardinal told Kathpress that it was the task of philosophy and the theory of science to determine the difference between scientific statements and extrapolations relating to a view of the nature of the world.

Erich Leitenberger, spokesman for Cardinal Schonborn, told Catholic News Service July 11 that "the cardinal believes that evolutionism as an ideology is to be rejected" because it cannot explain the existence of the soul and the spiritual world.

"He believes in a grand design that is in nature and that makes us understand the existence of the universe and life on earth," said Leitenberger.

Leitenberger confirmed a July 10 New York Times news story saying that Mark Ryland, vice president of the Seattle-based Discovery Institute, which supports intelligent design, helped the cardinal place the article in the Times.

Ryland told CNS that the cardinal's piece was not support for intelligent design.

"There is no mention of intelligent design in the essay," said Ryland.

"I see it more as an attack on Darwinism, which argues that there is no intelligent design in evolution," he said. "But it is not an affirmation of any scientific response to Darwin's theory."

Ryland said he recommended the media firm that submitted the article to the Times on Cardinal Schonborn's behalf. He noted that he has known the cardinal for five years.

Both are associated with the International Institute of Theology in Gaming, Austria. Cardinal Schonborn is the chancellor and Ryland is on the board.

YOUTH MINISTER

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH in Cary, NC is seeking an experienced youth minister for the position of Director of LifeTeen. Cary, NC is in the heart of the Sunbelt and has been named by Money Magazine as "the hottest town in the Eastern U.S." and one of the most desirable places to live in America. This established youth program currently has over 200 high school youth and is growing! LifeTeen's core mission, to lead teens closer to Christ, is achieved by high impact activities such as weekly Life Nights, retreats, and a variety of regularly scheduled informal gatherings. The Director of LifeTeen will direct the activities of over 40 faith filled adult and high school volunteers to foster the spiritual development of high schoolers through a high-energy Catholic program designed specifically for teens. The ideal candidate will provide guidance and encouragement to the teens through regular weekly activities. The ideal candidate will also have a strong foundation in contemporary Christian music that they will use to impact the spiritual development of the parish's teens. This position will require the ability to effectively coordinate with other parish programs, the Raleigh Diocese, and the national LifeTeen program.

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Souls need rest, too

VACATION, from page 1

especially in hectic cities, "leave little room for silence, reflection and being in touch with nature," it has become "almost a necessity to be able to refortify one's body and spirit" with a relaxing vacation, said the pope.

Some 6,000 pilgrims gathered at the small mountain village to hear Pope Benedict pray the midday Angelus during his first extended vacation since he was elected pontiff April 19.

"After the first months of the demanding pastoral service that (God) has entrusted to me, this summer pause is a truly providential gift of God," he told the crowd.

Surrounded by fir trees and snow-tipped mountains, the pope said "vacation time offers the unique opportunity to take a pause before nature's striking displays."

He said nature was like "a wonderful book," accessible to young and old. Being in touch with nature helps put things back in perspective; one "rediscovers oneself to be a small, but unique creature with a capacity for God," he said.

Pope Benedict said seeing the "stupendous mountains of the Valle d'Aosta" brought back vivid recollections of "my beloved predecessor John Paul II," who began the tradition of including an Alpine retreat during the summer holidays.

Pope Benedict was vacationing July

11-28 in an Alpine chalet owned by the Salesians.

Though fewer than 40 people reside in the rural area of Les Combes, the village teems with people — pilgrims, tourists and journalists — every summer that a pope visits for vacation. More than 200 Italian agents were reported to be providing security for the pope.

The pope reportedly was spending a large portion of his summer holiday writing and reading.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, who was staying with the pope, said the pontiff was enjoying "a real holiday, but a working holiday." Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa said the pontiff was using the break to write a book.

Cardinal Bertone, who worked many years at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under then-Cardinal Ratzinger, visited the pope July 12 at Les Combes.

In an interview published July 15 by the Italian Catholic newspaper Avvenire, Cardinal Bertone said the pope's mornings were dedicated to prayer and the late afternoons to long walks.

The rest of the day, the pope spends working, "reading, studying" and "writing a book," he said.

Navarro-Valls added that the pope was also spending some time playing the piano. For the past several days "I have heard him play Mozart," the spokesman said July 18.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Stem cells without embryos?

PUTTING THE CONTRARY CLAIMS TO THE TEST

The battle lines of the stem cell debate have become familiar.

In one corner we have embryonic stem cells, obtained by destroying one-week-old human embryos. The cells are "pluripotent," capable of producing all the 210 cell types in the human body.

In the other corner are stem cells obtained harmlessly from adult tissues, umbilical cord blood and placentas. These pose no ethical problem, but supposedly are more limited.

Herein lies the alleged tension between science and ethics: We can cure devastating diseases, or respect embryonic human life, but not both.

That dichotomy has always been misleading. Embryonic stem cells are far from curing any disease, while adult and umbilical cord blood stem cells have helped many thousands of patients. Yet scientists still claim that cells obtained by destroying early human life have special advantages that cannot be duplicated.

This claim is about to be tested.

Just before Congress' July 4 recess, Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., introduced the Respect for Life Pluripotent Stem Cell Act. It instructs the National Institutes of Health to fund research in obtaining pluripotent stem cells without creating or harming human embryos.

Bartlett knows whereof he speaks. He holds a doctorate in physiology and bases his proposal on a report by the President's Council on Bioethics and the latest research findings.

His bill outlines two ways to get pluripotent stem cells without harming embryos. One is to remove the cells from embryos without harming or destroying them. The bill would fund such efforts in animal embryos to see if this procedure can be safe enough for humans.

The other approach would produce embryo-like stem cells without creating embryos at all. A dozen studies now indicate that umbilical cord blood and adult tissues contain stem cells that may be as versatile as embryonic stem cells.

In addition, cutting-edge research suggests that adult cells can be "reprogrammed" in several ways into pluripotent stem cells.

One avenue is dubbed "ANT-OAR" — altered nuclear transfer by oocyte assisted reprogramming.

"Nuclear transfer" is the cloning method that made Dolly the sheep. The

Life Issues Forum

RICHARD M. DOERFLINGER
GUEST COLUMNIST



nucleus of a body cell is combined with an egg deprived of its own nucleus. Signals in the egg activate a much wider range of genes in that nucleus, so it no longer directs one specialized type of cell but begins the development of a whole new organism.

What if the egg and the body cell were altered in advance so that, from the beginning, the result is not a one-celled embryo, but a pluripotent stem cell like those now obtained by destroying embryos?

There are good scientific reasons to believe this can be done. And many Catholic scientists and ethicists have declared that it can and should be explored.

It would be good news indeed if modern science ends up resolving some moral dilemmas that an irresponsible use of science has created. Bartlett and his colleagues are helping to demonstrate what has always been true: science and ethics were meant to be allies, not enemies.

Richard Doerflinger is deputy director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Letters to the Editor

Closer look at Harry Potter needed

In a review of several books about Harry Potter ("Examining the good and bad of Harry," June 24), author John Granger indicated that spells are okay and it is only calling upon demons that is forbidden by Scripture. Granger's comments were unchallenged and untrue.

Scripture and the catechism forbid all type of magic. To say that spells (or

Pope says God's plan always has been to save people from sin

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — From the beginning of time, God's plan has been to save people from sin and embrace them as his children, Pope Benedict XVI said at his general audience July 6.

The plan of salvation is God's "great secret project" that he had in mind "before the foundation of the world," the pope said.

It is "our predestination to be children of God" through Jesus Christ, he said in his July 6 catechesis reflecting on the first chapter of St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

At one point in his address to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict lifted his eyes from his prepared text and told his audience he was moved every time he meditated on "this truth that from eternity we were before the eyes of God and he decided to save us."

"We are not just human creatures" created by God, "but we belong to him as his children," he said.

God calls everyone to become holy, but holiness is not an impossible dream, the pope said. Holiness, he said, is to take part in God's love and "to follow God, who is charity."

That God is love is "the consoling truth that makes us see that holiness is not something far from our lives," he said, departing from his written text.

More than 20,000 pilgrims from all over the world braved the heat to hear the pope's last weekly catechesis before he departed July 11 for his summer vacation in the Alps of northern Italy.

The weekly general audience at the Vatican was to be suspended until Aug. 3, when the pope was to return from Les

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



Combes di Introd in Italy's Valle d'Aosta region.

Though the pope will spend the month of August and part of September at the papal summer villa of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, he will hold his Wednesday general audiences either at the villa or at the Vatican, depending on the number of pilgrims expected to attend.

Part of the July 6 audience was a delegation from the Italian town of Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict, patriarch of Western monasticism, patron of Europe and founder of the Benedictine order.

Every year, the town sponsors the Benedictine Torch of Peace initiative in which the torch is lit, usually in a European capital, and is carried back to Norcia as a way to underline the common Christian roots of Europe.

Pope Benedict said this year the torch was lit in Moscow with a representative of Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II meeting with the delegation. Before coming to Rome, the torchbearers stopped in Markt am Inn, Germany, "where I was born," said the pope.

"May this striking initiative foster an ever greater dedication to paying witness to Christian values in Europe," he said.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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as Granger called them, "incantations") are acceptable is wrong. The blurring of these distinctions is one of my many concerns about Harry Potter.

In most children's fantasy books, there are clear distinctions of good guys and bad guys. In the Harry Potter books, the distinctions become blurred, with good wizards and bad wizards, good magic and bad magic. "Good guy" Harry lies, blackmails, breaks rules, ridicules others and takes revenge on other students.

The books refer to urination, excrement, "private parts" and students going off in pairs "into the bushes." And one book includes a possible allusion to abortion and fetal tissue research — plants, which look like babies, are to be chopped up to make medicines. These plants scream when uprooted for transplanting.

Catholic children don't need these books.

— Martha Shuping
Winston-Salem

Rushing to judgment

Being Christian means not jumping to conclusions

These days, articles abound on every book Pope Benedict XVI ever wrote, decrees he issued and actions he has taken. The pope isn't the only person scrutinized in this manner. Every public figure is under the same microscope.

This can become exasperating, especially when nonstop media coverage of an individual starts up and particularly when the coverage lacks any show of respect for the person under scrutiny. But can it be stopped?

If it did halt, an awfully lot of people would be out of a job. So much these days seems to revolve around figuring out people. Just look at the talk shows, newspapers and magazines that thrive on dissecting and passing judgment on people's lives.

But how do we reconcile all of this with Christ's admonition that we not judge others? Christ zeroed-in on judgment, but our culture thrives on it.

The word "judgment" means "pointing one in the right direction." Some years ago I learned the meaning of this word the hard way when cycling through Europe with a college student.

At one point I asked for directions to Freiburg, Germany. But after receiv-

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



ing the directions, I hesitated to follow them because they were given in German, which I didn't understand well. The college student, who was in a hurry, urged me to go in the direction pointed out to us.

In our haste, we ended up on the autobahn and were stopped by the German police. Without any discussion we were given tickets and then accompanied to the road to Freiburg we'd been looking for.

Christ's admonition on not judging others reminds us to be patient in reading the character of another lest we go down the path of misunderstanding and end up slandering the person. Most honest people try to gather as much information as possible before judging another.

But no matter how much informa-

tion is gathered, there are always gaps in it.

To know all sides of another person demands a very close relationship. So being Christian means not rushing to conclusions about others and what they are like — not rushing to conclusions that lead in the wrong direction, that is. It implies being well disposed toward another, which comes down to practicing kindness and love.

Our postmodern age conditions us to scrutinize the lives of others. This "dissecting" of others will continue to intensify because we are curious and inquisitive by nature, and because we now have greater means of doing this.

But we need to guard against losing sight of the sacredness of judgment. Our salvation is contingent on the good or bad judgments we make. A nation's security and well-being depend upon good judgments, and our daily lives are guided by them.

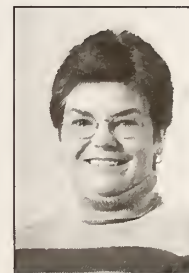
Perhaps this business of making judgments, especially about others, won't cease. But judgments that are hurried, biased, based on insufficient evidence and that border on disrespect aren't the Christian way.

We should regard the power contained in our judgments with awe.

Drawn to water, drawn to God

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST



"As a deer longs for running streams, so I yearn for you, my God" (Ps. 42).

On a lazy summer morning, I woke to the sound of my dog bolting down the deck stairs. Sunny is a golden retriever, and when she rouses from her catatonic, dead-dog-on-the-deck state to one of high alert, she's noisy.

I peered out the window. Sunny was staring at something back by the wood pile. Sunny remained very still, with the same look of concentration she has when she discovers a spider making its slow way across the carpet weave.

After I persuaded Sunny to come back to the deck, something scurried into the bushes. When I went to inspect, I found nothing.

Later, I glanced out and saw a whole family of whatever — goslings? ducklings? chicks? — rooting around in the middle of my yard. They were fluffy little fellows, and I watched with fascination as they searched the grass for an insect snack. Soon the five of them scurried off into the tall raspberry patch.

Before long the little whatever appeared in the lawn. Another bird, apparently their mother, stood on the other side of the chain-link fence.

Soon Momma issued a command, and each little whatever climbed through the links and marched in single file behind her.

I was charmed by this new family in the neighborhood. I called my friend Mary Bethe to find out what they were. A volunteer at a bird treatment facility and a knowledgeable ornithologist, she guessed they were one of the numerous kinds of duck that frequent our region.

Mary Bethe said waterfowl, even shorebirds, often nest on dry land and then make their way to deeper water.

But they were heading the wrong way when they visited my neighbor's yard.

Yes, Mary Bethe said, but eventually something leads them to the water.

So my visitors weren't new neighbors after all, but pilgrims on a journey.

"Deep is calling to deep by the roar of your cataracts," says the psalmist.

Salmon return to their streams to die, geese arrive and depart on cue, a momma duckling heads to the waters beyond a distant bluff.

Our psalmist understood that as the deer yearns for water, something in us yearns for the God who draws all things to himself.

Did Jesus shed his blood for 'many' or for 'all'?

Q. According to all the Gospel stories of the Last Supper, Jesus says his blood will be shed for "many" for the forgiveness of sins. Why then does the priest at Mass say for "all"? This seems to be misquoting the Gospel. Why the change? (Wisconsin)

A. Only two Gospels, in fact, use the word you quote. Luke does not, nor does Paul in his reference to the Last Supper (1 Cor 11:23-25). John, of course, does not include the institution of the Eucharist in his account of that night before the crucifixion.

You are correct about the seeming change in translation. The present Latin text of the Mass says "pro multis," which means literally for many, but is translated in English as "for all." That this translation is correct, however, is clear from the original languages involved.

In the Bible we find many so-called "Semitisms," written perhaps in Greek, but based on previous texts handed down in a Semitic language, in this case Aramaic or Hebrew.

Thus, the Greek text of Mark and Matthew, in these verses from the Last Supper, do use the word

"pollon," "many." The significant point is, however, that Hebrew and Aramaic have no equivalent word for "all." Hebrew "rabbim" means "many," but also has the meaning of "all" — "the many who form the whole."

Numerous examples appear elsewhere in both the Old and New Testaments. Matthew 20:28 says Jesus gave his life for the ransom "of many." The meaning is clear: He gave it for all humanity, not just some.

The Catholic New American Bible explains this verse in these words. "Many does not mean some are excluded, but is a Semitism designating the collectivity who benefit from the service of the one, and is equivalent to all."

This inclusive meaning of "many" was well understood by early Christians. John's Gospel, for example, while it devotes five chapters to events at the Last Supper, makes no reference to the institution of the Eucharist. John's main eucharistic texts are in Chapter 6, where Jesus "foretells" that he will give his disciples his flesh to eat and his blood to drink.

In the climactic phrase, Jesus declares that the bread he will give is his

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



flesh "for the life of the world" (Jn 6:51).

That same universal meaning of the eucharistic words is preserved, by the way, in the Mass texts of Spanish ("por todos"), French ("pour le multitude"), Italian ("per tutti") and other languages.

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Part 21; Synod document
on the Eucharist

| PAGE 7

VOLUME 14 No 38

SUPREME CATHOLICS Though few in number, Catholics have lengthy history on high court

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — If Judge John G. Roberts is confirmed for a seat on the Supreme Court, he will become one of the historically small number of Catholic justices — the first of whom joined the court as its chief justice in 1836, more than 50 years after the court was established.

Roberts, a federal appeals judge for the District of Columbia, was nominated July 19 to fill the vacancy created by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's retirement. Rob-

See COURT, page 5

ON-TIME DELIVERY Msgr. Kovacic rescued by UPS driver

BY TOM STOCKER
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BELMONT — Msgr. Anthony Kovacic seems to have an angel riding on his shoulder. Or at least on his delivery route.

The angel is Cathey Deal, a UPS driver who is attributed by emergency room doctors with saving the 85-year-old retired priest's life July 19.

Msgr. Kovacic, former pastor at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, now lives

See KOVACIC, page 16

Outdoor Mass welcomes migrants, celebrates culture

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

BETHEL — Under the trees, out of the hot sun, the breeze is cool. It's early evening July 17. On this day, when the Gospel reading tells of a farmer sowing his fields (Matthew 13:24-43), people are setting up for Mass in a farmworker camp.

The altar cloth covering the folding table is a serape in bright red, yellow, blue, pink and green stripes.

Nearby a shaggy white dog in a pen jumps about and watches as someone places a plastic container of white Queen Anne's lace flowers on the ground in front of the altar.

Augustinian Father Robert

See MASS, page 13



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Augustinian Father Robert Dueweke accepts offertory gifts, including cucumbers from the nearby fields, and the offertory collection during an outdoor Mass to welcome migrant farmworkers in Bethel, N.C., July 17.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

John Hu, a rising sixth grader at St. Mark School in Huntersville, saved a 4-year-old boy from drowning at a local water park this summer.

HU TO THE RESCUE

St. Mark School student saves boy from drowning

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — For most kids, the most exciting thing they will do this summer may be learning to roller blade or do a back flip off the diving board. But for John Hu, his summer kicked off with probably the most exciting thing he

will ever do in his entire life — saving a young boy from possibly drowning.

It was a sunny day June 8 at the Kannapolis Recreation Park and John's day care group from Huntersville Presbyterian Church was finishing

See HERO, page 9

Developing success

Development director wins award;
new staffers to help diocese, schools

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Culture Watch

Deacon's joke book provides
humor for clergy

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Perspectives

Potter's PR spell; the high court
and same-sex marriages

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S233 P2

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

DETAILING THE BIBLE



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Muralist Marianne Savage adds detail to an image from the Book of Exodus in the parish center corridor at St. John Nepomucene Church in Bohemia, N.Y. Savage, the parish secretary, is painting a mural depicting scenes from the Bible along the upper section of the corridor walls, which total 250 feet in length. She began the art project in July 2004 and expects to apply the finishing touches in September 2006.

Muralist brings Bible stories to life on walls of parish center

BOHEMIA, N.Y. (CNS) — The main corridor in the parish center of St. John Nepomucene Church in Bohemia will never be confused with the Sistine Chapel, but an ambitious art project is creating a buzz among parishioners and others who come to the one-story brick building.

"It's astonishing," Father James Wood, pastor, said of a multicolored mural depicting Bible stories that is being created on the upper portion of the corridor walls, which are 250 feet in length.

"People who see it are touched by it," he said. "They bring their friends to take a look at it."

The masterpiece-in-the-making is the work of parish secretary Marianne Savage, who applied the first stroke of acrylic paint to her cement canvas in July 2004. Savage, who expects to put the finishing touches on the project in September 2006, is approaching the midway point and hopes to have the Old Testament scenes completed by late summer.

A Genesis-inspired image depicting the beginning of the universe is the first 27-inch-high panel. From there, the vivid Scripture timeline wraps around a corner and seamlessly moves down the building that houses classrooms for religious education and meeting space for a variety of

parish ministries.

While some might find such a project daunting, Savage finds peace and enjoyment in it.

During a typical week, Savage spends Monday through Thursday working in the parish office. On Friday she grabs her paintbrushes and acrylic paints and heads for the hallway, where she climbs a six-foot aluminum ladder to begin painting. She works on the mural from about 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"I visualize the scenes in my head before I sketch them out," said Savage, who gets her ideas from reading the Bible, scanning faith-themed children's books and reviewing clips from Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 film classic, "The Ten Commandments."

The goal of her mural project, Savage said, goes beyond brightening up the drab walls of a hallway. She wants her artwork to stir interest in the Word of God.

"I'm hoping (the mural) will be a learning tool, that it will encourage children and adults to open the Bible," Savage said. "If they're intrigued by what they see, chances are they will look it up and read more about it. It's my way of introducing God to other people through the gift he gave me. It's my way of 'giving back' that gift."

Late pope confers title of knighthood on rabbi

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — In an honor rarely conferred on people of other faiths, Pittsburgh Bishop Donald W. Wuerl invested Rabbi Walter Jacob, rabbi emeritus of Rodef Shalom Congregation, into the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

The knighthood was granted through the late Pope John Paul II.

The ceremony in mid-June formed part of a daylong tribute to Rabbi Jacob celebrating his 50 years of service to Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood and his 75th birthday.

Rabbi Jacob has long been a leader in Reform Judaism, which stresses the use of the vernacular in religious services and encourages social interaction and interfaith efforts. He is also former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and has received honorary degrees for his contributions.

The papal honor, Bishop Wuerl said, "is an acknowledgment by the church of the personal character and honorable reputation, together with the generous use of personal talents and gifts for the good of the church, the faith and the good of the wider community of all of God's children."

"While the Jewish community is recognizing Rabbi Walter Jacob for his half-century of service, we want to salute him for the collaboration that he has fostered, and particularly to recognize the tradition of dialogue he supports and sustains out of which deeper respect and understanding have developed between the Jewish and Catholic communities," the bishop said.

In honor of his work, Rabbi Jacob was named a grand commander of the Order of the Republic of Germany, and Austria has issued a postage stamp in his honor.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

MINT HILL — A *Pax Christi Peace Vigil* will mark the 60th Anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Aug. 6 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. We will gather and pray at the Peace Pole, in the garden near the front entrance to the church. Please consider joining us as we remember these events and pray "Never again." For more information, call Marie-Michele Darcy, Pax Christi coordinator, at (704) 556-1215.

CHARLOTTE — The *Society of Mary and Martha* meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Faith Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and third Mondays of each month. The group will read "The Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese and a chapter will be covered every meeting. For more information call Jordan (704) 737-1964 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

CHARLOTTE — *Healing Hearts*, a support

group for people coping with the death of a spouse, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Rd. For more information, contact Sister Therese Galligan, facilitator, at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. Charlotte, NC 28226, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The music ministry of St.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pre-Vatican II Latin Mass to be celebrated during World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Apparently for the first time in the history of World Youth Day, young Catholics dedicated to the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass and devotions will have Vatican-approved opportunities to pray with the old liturgies.

Organizers of the “Juventutem” pilgrimage said they expect at least 2,000 young people from 20 countries to join their World Youth Day activities Aug. 10-15 in and around Dusseldorf, Germany, before moving to Cologne for the international gathering with Pope Benedict XVI.

The movement brings together youth groups from a variety of parishes and organizations operating under the terms of “Ecclesia Dei,” Pope John Paul II’s 1988 norms for maintaining union with the Catholic Church while using

the Tridentine Mass.

“We have made it explicit to WYD authorities that we expect our liturgical identity to be recognized and indeed welcomed,” said a statement from the group.

Officials at the Pontifical Council for the Laity confirmed July 22 that the World Youth Day celebration is open to all Catholic youths; those operating under the special terms of “Ecclesia Dei” are not excluded.

A Juventutem press release said Cardinals E. Francis George of Chicago and Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, will address the group in Cologne and will lead the pilgrimage members in prayer.

Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney will celebrate vespers and Benediction with them, it said.

Pius X Church will perform an *Outdoor Concert* to celebrate the church’s 25th anniversary since breaking ground on the current church building. The concert will begin at 5 p.m. on the soccer field near the church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please feel free to bring a blanket and picnic dinner. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others’ needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

BRYSON CITY — *Court St. Mary, Mother of God No. 2534, of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas*, will meet Aug. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St. Father Shawn O’Neal will be guest speaker at the meeting, which is open to the community. For further information, contact Sandy Beauchemin, court

regent, at (828) 585-1136.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A one-day workshop, “*Inactive Catholics: Who Are They and How Can We Reach Them?*” will be presented Aug. 13, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Ln. Paulist Father Robert Rivers will be the presenter. There are no fees for the conference. Advanced registration is requested by calling (828) 926-0106 or e-mail lwrc@main.nc.us.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Want to follow the Church’s teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with the Couple to Couple League. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching and the method is healthy and as effective as the Pill with none of the side effects. A four-part series of classes will begin Aug. 21, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Classes will meet once a month. Please call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information and to register.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Divorced Catholics must be welcomed in parishes, pope tells priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Divorced and civilly remarried Catholics who suffer because they cannot receive Communion must be welcomed in parishes as Catholics who witness to the importance of the Eucharist, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At the same time, he said, if a priest, acting out of compassion for their suffering, gives them the Eucharist, he risks undermining the dignity and indissolubility of the sacrament of marriage.

“We all know that this is a particularly painful situation,” the pope said July 25 during a meeting with about 140 priests, religious and deacons from the Valle d’Aosta region where he was vacationing.

The pope added that he knew the issue could get complicated and said, “Given these people’s situation of suffering it must be studied.”

Asked about ministry to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, Pope Benedict told the priests, “None of us has a ready-made solution, because each person’s situation is different.”

“I would say that a particularly painful situation is that of those who were married in the church, but were not really believers and did so just for tradition, and then finding themselves in a new, nonvalid marriage, convert, find the faith and feel excluded from the sacrament,” he said.

Pope Benedict said that when he was prefect of the Congregation for the Doc-

trine of the Faith he asked several bishops’ conferences and experts to study the problem, which in effect was “a sacrament celebrated without faith.”

Pope Benedict said that Catholics must keep two things in mind: First, that even if divorced and civilly remarried Catholics cannot receive the Eucharist, they are part of the church and are loved by Christ; and second, that suffering out of love for God and for the church is “a noble suffering.”

While participating at Mass without receiving Communion is not optimal, he said, “it is not nothing; it is involvement in the mystery of the cross and resurrection of Christ.”

“Given that it is the sacrament of the passion of Christ, the suffering Christ embraces these persons in a special way and communicates with them in a different way,” he said. “They can feel embraced by the crucified Lord who falls to the earth and dies and suffers for them and with them.”

Priests and parishioners must share the suffering of those excluded from the Eucharist, he said, but they cannot act in a way that casts doubt on the unbreakable bond of sacramental marriage.

“In the end, faith is simple and rich: We believe that God exists, that God is important. But what God? A God with a face, a human face. A God who reconciles, who defeats hatred and gives the strength of peace which no one else can give,” he said.

Praying for rain



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Mike Yankauskas, a farmer from Knox, Ind., examines a corn crop that should be towering over his head. He checked the crop following a brief rainfall July 20 that resulted in 0.4 inches of moisture. Yankauskas, who attends St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Knox, said his crops needed 2 inches of rain each week from July 1 to the end of August. This season’s heat and dryness has damaged the silk found on the corn and proper pollination was not occurring.

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte has appointed two new vicars forane, effective July 22, 2005:

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, as vicar forane for the Greensboro Vicariate.

Father John D. Hanic, pastor of St. John Baptist de la Salle in North Wilkesboro and St. Stephen Church in Elkin, as vicar forane for the Boone Vicariate.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 13 — 50th Anniversary Celebration
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

Aug. 19 — Dedication of Renovated Church
St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine

Aug. 15 — Priests and Seminarians Gathering
Bishop’s Residence, Charlotte

Aug. 20 — Fiesta con Jesus
Charlotte Merchandise Mart, Charlotte

God's helpers

Three from diocese to serve as overseas missionaries

CHARLOTTE — Three members of the Diocese of Charlotte are taking their first steps toward serving as lay missionaries.

Bill Eppler, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, and Aaron and Tara Condon, parishioners of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, are moving to Los Angeles, Calif., in August for a four-month formation program with the Lay Mission-Helpers Association.

The program consists of classes in Scripture, mission theology, spirituality, communication and cross-cultural issues. Once it is completed, the three will be commissioned in December and receive their mission rings, engraved with

"For we are God's helpers."

They then will be assigned to serve for three years in overseas missions beginning January 2006.

The Lay Mission-Helpers Association was founded in 1955 by Msgr. Anthony Brouwers. Since its founding, the association has sent more than 700 men, women and families to serve in 36 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Lay Mission-Helpers Association, visit www.laymissionhelpers.org.

Catching up on old times



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Franciscan Sister Jean Linder catches up with Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general, at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte July 20. She came to Charlotte to visit Franciscan Sisters Joan Ann Gilsdorf, community member of the Franciscan discernment house, and Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry.

During her 23 years in North Carolina, Sister Linder served as the diocesan vicar for women religious, executive secretary for the vocations office and worked in the diocesan planning office for seven years. She also worked at the Living Waters Retreat Center in Maggie Valley for a number of years.

While visiting her former coworkers in the Pastoral Center, Sister Linder commented that the atmosphere among the employees "was and continues to be special."

In 2000, she moved to the Franciscan motherhouse in Tiffin, Ohio, where she works as the librarian.

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Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
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For information on specific programs,
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Msgr. Richard Bellow



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**Each presentation will cover the same topics.
Please register in advance.**

Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville — Wednesday, August 10

St. Francis Room/Our Lady Queen of the Angels Chapel

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte — Thursday, August 11 (Event will be videotaped)

Ministry Center

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

St. Peter Church, Charlotte — Friday, August 12

Atrium Room, Annex Building

12:30 pm - Lunch 1-2 pm - Presentation 2-2:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

Holy Family Church, Clemmons — Saturday, August 13

Parish Center, Rooms 3 & 4

3 pm - Light snack 3:30-4:30 pm - Presentation 4:30-5 pm - Q&A 5:30 pm - Mass

Presenter: Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D., Chair, Philosophy Dept., Fordham University

St. Pius X Church, Greensboro — Tuesday, September 13

Kloster Center

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow, Pastor, St. Mark Church

St. James Church, Hamlet — Wednesday, September 21

Parish Hall

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Rev. Edward Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church

St. Mark Church, Huntersville — Thursday, September 22

Worship Area

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow, Pastor, St. Mark Church

St. Aloysius Church, Hickory — Tuesday, September 27

Holy Family Hall

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Rev. Edward Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church



****Attendance is free, but please register in advance by calling 704-370-3228 or emailing sabeason@charlottediocese.org.**

More details about these presentations are at: **www.cssnc.org**

Catholics and the Supreme Court

COURT, from page 1

erts graduated from Catholic elementary and high schools in Indiana, and he and his family are members of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Md.

Should he be confirmed to the court, Roberts will be the 10th Catholic justice in history and the fourth among current members, the most ever at one time.

Paving the way

The first Catholic justice went straight to the top.

After serving as attorney general and acting secretary of war, Roger B. Taney was rejected by the Senate the first time President Andrew Jackson nominated him to become an associate justice of the Supreme Court in 1835. That apparently was due more to the Senate's ongoing political battles with Jackson, though, rather than to Taney or his religion, according to encyclopedia references.

Taney was confirmed as chief justice when that position opened up a year later, and he served until 1864.

The son of a Maryland plantation owner and slaveholder, Taney is perhaps best known for writing the majority opinion in *Dred Scott vs. Sandford* in 1857. It said Negroes could not become citizens and that Congress had no authority to prohibit the territories from allowing slavery.

The ruling became hotly divisive and was a factor in creating the political climate that led to the Civil War.

The second Catholic named to the court was not seated for another 30 years after Taney's death, but he also became chief justice, the only other Catholic to have held that post.

Edward Douglas White, a U.S. senator from a wealthy and politically powerful Louisiana family, was appointed to the court in 1894 by President Grover



U.S. President George W. Bush listens to remarks after announcing his nomination of federal appeals court Judge John G. Roberts to the Supreme Court in a televised address to the nation from the White House July 19.



CNS PHOTOS FROM REUTERS

The Catholic Supreme Court justices are, from left, Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Confirmation of John G. Roberts would add a fourth Catholic justice to the nation's highest court. The justices are pictured in 2003 file photos taken in Washington.

Cleveland after his two previous nominations were rejected by the Senate. White had attended Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md., and Georgetown

University and served in the Confederate Army before entering politics.

The Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court notes that White's nomination sailed through, apparently at least in part because he was a member of the Senate.

In 1910, White was elevated to the seat of chief justice, which he held until his death in 1921.

White was joined on the court in 1898 by Joseph McKenna, the son of Irish immigrants, who was U.S. attorney general at the time of his nomination.

McKenna had also served as a judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and as a member of Congress. Although anti-Catholic sentiment of the 1880s was a factor in McKenna's defeat in his first two runs for Congress, such attitudes were apparently not in play in his confirmation to the court.

Catholics in court

Six other Catholics have served on the court since then. Since 1894, the longest period when there was no Catholic was the seven-year gap between the 1949 death of Frank Murphy and William J. Brennan's confirmation in 1956.

Some sources list Sherman Minton, who took one of two seats vacated by deaths in 1949, as being Catholic. That would mean the longest gap without a Catholic on the court since the 19th century was the 12-week period between the November 1939 death of Pierce Butler, the fourth Catholic on the court, and the swearing-in of Frank Murphy in February 1940.

However, Minton didn't become a Catholic until 1961, after he retired from the court in 1956.

Minton's seat in turn went to Brennan, who would be the sole Catholic on the court for 30 years. He was joined by Antonin Scalia in 1986, and two years later by Anthony Kennedy.

At the time Justice Clarence Thomas was confirmed in 1991, he said that despite having been raised Catholic and having spent several years in a seminary, he was not a practicing Catholic. In 1996 he told fellow alumni at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., that he had recently returned to the church, making him the third Catholic among current justices.

The longest-serving Catholic on the court has been Brennan, who retired in poor health in 1990 after 33 years in the post. The shortest term for one of the Catholics was Murphy's nine years.

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Classes held in Charlotte

AROUND THE DIOCESE

New development directors to assist diocese, schools

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Office of Development has two new employees serving the Diocese of Charlotte. Judy Smith joined the staff as the director of planned giving and Susan Cameron is the director of Catholic schools development.

A lasting legacy

Smith sees her role as director of planned giving as expanding on the work that had been done by her predecessors and recognizing donors who have already committed planned gifts to benefit diocesan entities.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with the people of the Diocese of Charlotte to assist them in their philanthropic efforts as they plan for gifts from their estate," Smith said.

Smith has worked in the area of development for close to 20 years, primarily at Habitat for Humanity and the performing arts. Working for the Diocese of Charlotte "presents a wonderful opportunity to help people provide for the future of the church," she said.

Smith said she looks forward to meeting people face-to-face while assisting them with their planned giving to benefit the diocese, either through endowments or other estate gifts.

"When you set up an endowment, your gift lives on," Smith said. "It is invested and accrues interest. There is money to be spent from income earned on the principle year after year."

Building up our schools

As director of Catholic schools development, Cameron is responsible for fundraising for the 18 diocesan Catholic schools.

Tuition alone cannot provide enough money to finance all the programs the Catholic schools offer, Cameron said.

"Collectively, gifts can make up the difference to provide programs students



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Susan Cameron, left, and Judy Smith are the two newest employees in the diocesan Office of Development.

would go without otherwise," she said. Fundraising also helps prevent large tuition increases.

Among the programs funded are tuition assistance, technology enhancements, academic programs and teacher professional development.

Cameron, a graduate of Belmont Abbey College, worked in development for seven years at Elon University and Queens University.

"I strongly believe in Catholic education and the unique experience it can give students," Cameron said.

"Judy and Susan are great additions to the development team," said Jim Kelley, director of development. "Between them, they have almost 30 years of development experience that will benefit our parishioners, churches, schools and agencies."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more about planned giving, contact Judy Smith at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org. For more about Catholic schools development, contact Susan Cameron at (704) 370-3303 or secameron@charlottediocese.org.

AWARDING SERVICE

Development director recognized with own community-builder award

CHARLOTTE — Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, was recently awarded the inaugural Community Builder Award from United Way.

The award, which will be known as the Jim Kelley Award, honors individuals who have given countless hours of service to United Way and the community. It was presented at an event recognizing volunteers in Charlotte June 30.

"I have had many blessings in my life. I am very grateful for those blessings, and I have a responsibility to give back in gratitude for what God has given to me," said Kelley. "That is why I spend time in service to the Charlotte community."

Kelley has volunteered with United Way of Central Carolinas for 24 years, serving primarily with the Citizen Review Process, in which more than 300 volunteers annually study the community's most pressing health and human service needs and allocate resources to more than 200 programs within United Way member agencies.

Kelley serves as chair of United Way's Community Building Council, is a member of the Community Investment Committee, has led the diocese's United Way campaign, has served as a United Way speaker and been involved in United Way's "Leading The Way" training program.

Over the years, he has maintained a special passion for supporting the area's homeless population.

"Jim Kelley is a shining example of what we think of when we mention 'Community Builder,'" said Gloria Pace King, United Way president. "We are so grateful for all he's done for this community."

As director of development, Kelley manages the diocesan development office, which organizes and operates the Diocesan Support Appeal, assists parishes with stewardship efforts and capital campaigns, and assists Catholic schools, Catholic Social Services and campus ministries with development efforts.

He is the author of several books on church stewardship, has served as a leader within the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

United Way of Central Carolinas, Inc. partners with agencies, volunteers, donors and local businesses to identify needs and invest community resources in programs that create lasting solutions for our community's most pressing issues.

WANT MORE INFO?

More info about the diocesan development office can be found at www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html.

More info about United Way of Central Carolinas, Inc. can be found at www.uwcentralcarolinas.org.



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Synod working document says Eucharist must be celebrated with dignity

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Because Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, the sacrament must be treated with dignity, shared only by those who hold the same faith and lead to efforts to spread the Gospel, said the working document for the Synod of Bishops.

The document, which will form discussions at the Oct. 2-23 world Synod of Bishops, was released July 7 at the Vatican. The theme of the synod is "The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church."

Its observations about how Catholics around the world see and celebrate the sacrament were drawn from contributions by 113 bishops' conferences, 11 synods of bishops of Eastern Catholic churches, 25 Vatican congregations and councils, and the Union of Superiors General.

In the introduction, Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, said the working document "principally concentrated on the positive aspects of the celebration of the Eucharist that bring the faithful together and make them a community, despite their differences in race, language, nation and culture."

"Mention is also made of various insufficiencies and oversights in the celebration of the Eucharist which, thanks be to God, are rather contained," he wrote.

The document repeatedly called for balance in how the Eucharist is celebrated: times for song, verbal prayer and quiet; adherence to liturgical norms that are the same all over the world and the use of local cultural elements such as songs and gestures; and prayers and readings in the local language and in Latin, especially for international celebrations.

While experience varies around the world, the key problem identified was a decreasing awareness among Catholics of the obligation and benefits of attending the liturgy and receiving the Eucharist every Sunday.

In addition, it said, too many people seem to be unaware of the importance of receiving the Eucharist only when they are in a "state of grace," having received the sacrament of penance after having committed a serious sin.

"Belonging to the church is the basis for admittance to the sacraments," it said. "No one can approach the Eucharist without having first received baptism; no one can return to the Eucharist without first having received the sacrament of penance."

The document also reaffirmed church teaching that Catholics who are

divorced and civilly remarried may not receive the Eucharist in most cases, but are encouraged to continue attending Mass and may even approach the priest at Communion to receive a blessing in parishes where that is the practice.

The document explained the Catholic Church recognizes the validity of the Eucharist in the Orthodox churches and the possibility of Catholics and Orthodox receiving Communion at each other's liturgies where circumstances permit.

However, it repeated church rules that in most cases eucharistic sharing with Anglicans and Protestants is not possible; Catholics and other Christians must pray and work for the full unity that would allow them to gather around the same altar and profess their shared faith by receiving the Eucharist together, it said.

The document said bishops around the world felt the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council were overwhelmingly positive, although some misunderstandings and abuses have occurred in how the council's teachings were interpreted and put into practice.

Among the concerns, it listed the loss of a sense of the sacred and a diminished understanding of the Eucharist as Christ's sacrifice on the altar, with the result that many people think the community praying together makes Jesus present in the Eucharist rather than acknowledging that in the sacrament Jesus gives himself under the forms of bread and wine.

The bishops also had special praise for the lay people in their dioceses and parishes who teach children about the Eucharist, who fulfill various functions during the liturgy and who lead prayer services when a priest is not available to celebrate Mass.

The synod's working document said Catholics must understand that a validly ordained priest is absolutely necessary for the valid celebration of Mass.

The working document dedicated one of its four sections to "the Eucharist in the mission of the church," particularly emphasizing that by receiving Communion and the grace of Christ it brings Catholics must live the faith once they leave Mass.

True faith in the Eucharist implies living a morally upright life, acting and even voting in accordance with church teaching, spreading the Gospel, promoting peace and working for justice, it said.

"In a culture of death, the Eucharist is the culture of life," it said. "In an atmosphere of individual and societal selfishness, the Eucharist reaffirms total self-giving. Where there is hate and terrorism, the Eucharist places love."

This is my body

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 21

In our ongoing catechesis on the Mass, we have examined the first two parts of the Eucharistic Prayer: the Preface and the Sanctus.

As soon as the Sanctus comes to completion, the faithful assume the posture of kneeling in humble adoration, awaiting the King of Kings, before whom "every knee must bend" (GIRM No. 43; cf. Phil 2:10). Then, with the simplicity of one lone voice breaking the silence of the upper room at the Last Supper, Jesus Christ, the high priest, utters the sacred words through his priest, the words that he gave to his church on Holy Thursday.

Through this divine mystery, bread and wine actually change into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, leaving behind only the appearances of bread and wine.

We could admittedly spend months studying and contemplating this divine mystery that lies at the heart of the Mass. But for the sake of brevity and clarity, let us focus our attention only on what pertains to this mystery of faith: the words and actions that effect this sacrament.

To investigate how this is accomplished, we must now turn to the next two parts of the Eucharistic Prayer: the epiclesis and the institution narrative and consecration.

The word epiclesis is a Greek composite of two words: kaleo, meaning "to call, summon, or invite"; and when preceded by the preposition epi, the word means "to call down." During this third part of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest "calls down" the Holy Spirit and signifies this activity by placing his hands over the gifts that are to be sacrificed. Sanctuary bells may be rung at this time to call our attention.

The epiclesis has at least two main spiritual meanings: 1) in the Old Testament temple sacrifices, the priest would place his hands on the lamb of sacrifice, dedicating it for sacrifice (Cf. Lev. 16:21-22); and 2) the epiclesis recalls the mystery of the Incarnation, where the Holy Spirit descended upon and overshadowed the Blessed Virgin Mary so that the Word became flesh (Luke 1:35).

Indeed, the holy sacrifice of the Mass unites these two mysteries together as Jesus Christ becomes both priest and victim of the sacrifice and

Guest Column

FATHER
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GUEST COLUMNIST



again comes to us sacramentally in the flesh. This brings us to the fourth part of the Eucharistic Prayer.

During the institution narrative and the consecration, the familiar voice of Jesus Christ is heard as the high priest of every sacrifice of the Mass. Each priest lends himself to the service of Christ, so that our Lord can once again re-present his sacrifice. It is not simply the priest who speaks, "This is my body," since it is not his body, per se, but rather it is Christ who speaks, "This is my body ... this is my blood."

These words actually effect the change from bread and wine into the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

Just as Christ took bread and wine at the Last Supper, blessed it and gave it to his Apostles after he consecrated it into his body and blood, he continues to offer them for our salvation. This change from bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ is known as transubstantiation, meaning a "change in substance." The whole substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ's Body and Blood.

The appearances of bread and wine remain the same. Therefore, when we receive the holy Eucharist, we do not receive bread and wine with the body and blood of Christ (consubstantiation), nor do we receive bread and wine that merely signify the body and blood of Christ (transignification; transfinalization).

On the contrary, we do receive the body and blood of Christ, the same crucified, risen and glorified body of Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine.

Christ said, "This is my body." We have no reason to doubt him, who is incapable of deceiving us.

The consecration actually occurs in two distinct consecrations: first the body, then the blood, signifying the death of Christ, whose precious blood was separated from his body on the cross. After each consecration is a moment of adoration, a moment that prepares us for that moment of divine intimacy whereby God desires to enter divine communion with us.

We will continue with the Eucharistic Prayer next time.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html

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Speaking to God



COURTESY PHOTO

Children pray during Vacation Bible School at St. Ann Church in Charlotte June 26-July 1. Eighty-three children participated in "Serengeti Trek," which transformed the church's Msgr. Allen Center into an African paradise. Run by 50 teenage and adult "safari crews," the week consisted of prayer time, games, sing along songs, Bible study and fellowship.

Prayerful safari



COURTESY PHOTO

Children from Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands model their safari hats during a craft session at the fifth summer Vacation Bible School. More than 50 children from Our Lady of the Mountains Church and the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation attended the weeklong camp, this year themed "Kingdom of the Son."

SOARing athletes



COURTESY PHOTO BY RON DESHAIES

Katie Shell, a student at Charlotte Catholic High School, dances with athlete Jonathan Williams during the fifth annual Camp SOAR (Special Olympics Athletic Retreat) held at the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center in Charlotte June 8-10. More than 60 Charlotte Catholic students volunteered at the weekend event at which more than 165 athletes, ages 10-adults, with intellectual disabilities participated in athletic events. The camp also featured arts and crafts, dancing, music, movies and nature activities.

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Hu to the rescue

HERO, from page 1

a morning of swimming and playing on the waterslides.

John and a friend noticed a 4-year-old boy struggling to keep his blond head above the water.

Reacting quickly, John pulled the boy out of the water to the side of the pool. A lifeguard then appeared, taking over for John and bringing the shocked child to his own group.

"As Christians, we have to help each other," said John, reflecting on the event.

John is an extraordinary boy in many ways besides his early lifesaving capabilities. Just 9 years old, he is a rising sixth grader at St. Mark School in Huntersville, having skipped kindergarten.

Born in China, John and his mother moved to Kentucky when he was six months old. After several years they moved to Cornelius and soon joined St. Mark Church in nearby Huntersville.

An avid student, John's favorite school subject is history, and he loves studying the U. S. presidents — so much so he won third place in the Mecklenburg Area Academic Games League competition and 10th place in the national competition.

Already this extraordinary young man has high ambitions: He dreams of attending Princeton University.

The second highlight of his summer was a recent camping trip in New England — his first ever.

On the trip home, his group traveled through Princeton, N.J., and John got to see his — hopefully — future alma mater.

"I think (saving the boy from drowning) might help me go to Princeton," John said.

John's lifesaving experience hasn't influenced his career plans, though — he wants to study finance.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Prevailing design



COURTESY PHOTO

Olivia Wylie, a student at St. Michael School in Gastonia, wears her award-winning T-shirt, which won two school-wide art contests in the 2004-05 school year. Her interpretation of the Catholic Schools Week theme, "Faith in Every Student," was chosen and printed for the school's Fun Fair and Road Race. For the school's celebration of Dr. Seuss, Olivia's book title and illustration of "The Elakamoo Lives in the Zoo" won first place.

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'Catholics and Cherokees'

Program explores Cherokee culture, Catholic social teaching

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA — How do past events influence people today?

That's one of the questions that will be answered in "Catholics and Cherokees III: Continuing the Dialogue — Healing the Soul Wound."

The program, which is free and open to the public, was presented July 12 at St. William Church in Murphy and will be repeated Aug. 25 at the Jackson County Justice Center in Sylva.

Patty Grant Long, a therapist and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will discuss historical trauma and intergenerational grief and its impact on the lives of Cherokee people today, as well as Cherokee culture and spirituality.

Mary Herr, faith formation consultant and Native American multicultural worker for the Diocese of Charlotte's Smoky Mountain Vicariate, will facilitate discussion of relevant Catholic social teaching and identify ways to apply it to current issues.

Relevant Catholic social teaching includes the dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities of the human person; the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable; solidarity; and care of God's creation.

"I really enjoyed it," said St. Margaret of Scotland parishioner Mary Witte, one of about 50 who attended the session held there in June.

"It was very interesting and educational. [Long's] personal experiences made it so vivid. It was eye-opening to me," she said.

Among the aspects of historical trauma and intergenerational grief that

Long discussed were how Native American children were forced into boarding schools run by government agencies and, in some cases, religious organizations and the effect this had on those children and their children years later.

For example, children who were placed in boarding schools, often for years, sometimes faced harsh treatment, including being punished for practicing their religion or speaking their own languages. Because they were not parented well by those in the schools, they did not learn how to parent their children.

"I know the whole experience of the Cherokees was awful, but I had no idea it was like that," Witte said. "Everyone should go to (this presentation)."

"Catholics and Cherokees" is sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Vicariate with a grant from the Christian Brothers' FSC Foundation.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

WANT TO GO?

The program, scheduled 6:30-9 p.m., is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. To register for the program in Sylva (Aug. 25), contact Father Shawn O'Neal at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City at (828) 488-6766 or Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498.



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RAINing education

Diocese, RAIN bring awareness to Hispanic youths

LEXINGTON — In an effort to educate young Hispanics about the myths and facts of HIV and AIDS, the diocesan Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office invited the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) to participate in a recent E.V.A.E. seminar.

The E.V.A.E. (El Verdadero Amor Espera, or "True Love Waits") seminar was held at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington July 9. It is another in a series of seminars by the Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office being held in parishes around the Diocese of Charlotte.

"It is very important for the Hispanic Ministry that the people of Hispanic traditions and customs are engaged in overall growth, especially in the area of human sexuality," said Ricardo Veloz, director of Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry, during a seminar at Holy Family Church in Clemmons May 27-29.

North Carolina's Hispanic population is growing rapidly, and many Hispanics are unaware of how HIV is transmitted, according to RAIN educators.

"Through our pastoral care ministry, we have seen an increase in the number of Hispanics infected with HIV in the public clinics in areas of Charlotte and its surroundings," said Rev. Amy Brooks, a Unitarian Universalist minister and RAIN's director of prevention education.

RAIN's Hispanic team, comprised mostly of parishioners from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, utilized a bingo game format to teach HIV- and AIDS-related information and statistics to the Hispanic youths in Lexington.

Afterward, Brother Lombardo D'Auria, a Capuchin postulate serving at Our Lady of Consolation Church and RAIN's Hispanic outreach coordinator, emphasized the importance of abstinence in preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry, and Haydee Garcia, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Charlotte Vicariate, help the RAIN Hispanic team provide bingo-format seminars in different parishes with Hispanic congregations, including Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Ann churches in Charlotte; and St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

In order to educate the public and encourage faith communities to assist persons living with HIV/AIDS, RAIN has coordinated programs in 100 congregations from 20 denominations in 13 counties in North and South Carolina since 1992.

RAIN delivers its services through faith- and community-based CareTeams who provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Our Lady of Consolation Church's RAIN Care Team has been in existence for eight years.

"In my personal experience, it has taught me to be patient, nonjudgmental, increased my Catholic faith and helped those brothers and sisters (who are) less fortunate," said Denise Shropshire, a CareTeam member at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

Veloz has invited the RAIN Hispanic team to participate in the next E.V.A.E. retreat at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Aug. 12-14.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the RAIN Hispanic team or to host an HIV/AIDS bingo seminar, contact Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott at (704) 372-7246.

To learn more about RAIN, go online at www.carolinarain.org.

PICNICKING FOR POVERTY



COURTESY PHOTO

The Men's Club and Ladies' Guild of St. William Church in Murphy hosted a "Swing into Summer for Somotillo" picnic July 10. About 125 parishioners enjoyed a barbecue, music, games and a raffle.

All profits from the picnic will be used to support two schools in the church's sister community of Somotillo, Nicaragua. Somotillo is a community of more than 20,000 people, most of whom live in poverty.

Many of St. William Church's parishioners and organizations provide scholarships for individual students in Somotillo. St. Ignatius School educates elementary-age street children who cannot afford to attend the city's public school. The other school is an agricultural school to teach older children skills for raising crops and animals.

For the past three years, St. William parishioners have traveled to Somotillo semiannually to meet the students and teachers and to assess their progress as well as their needs.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Hispanic youths discuss in small groups what they are learning about abstinence and AIDS prevention during a seminar held at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington July 9.

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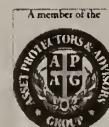
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Outdoor Mass brings Eucharist to migrants

MASS, from page 1

Dueweke unpacks the box Erlinda Rogers has brought from Immaculate Conception Church in Canton. There are two silver chalices, a paten, unconsecrated hosts, a bottle of sacramental wine, an alb, green stole and a chasuble.

The Mass and the party afterward will welcome migrant farmworkers, who come each year to harvest crops in this rural area near Canton. It's also a Mass of thanksgiving for blessings received.

This is an appropriate place for a Mass, Father Dueweke will note in his homily: Bethel means "house of God."

Surrounded by mountains, Bethel "looks like Peru," says Father Dueweke, who spent 15 years there as a missionary. Now, through the sponsorship of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova and grants from the Catholic Extension Service and the Diocese of Charlotte, Father Dueweke will spend the next two years ministering to Hispanic people in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

As Father Dueweke vests for Mass, people fill the brown metal chairs placed in rows before the altar. More gather under an equipment shelter across the dirt driveway that leads to the workers' singlewide trailers. Some 120 people,

mostly Hispanic, are there to welcome the 30 migrants.

A Hispanic choir of voices and guitars opens with an upbeat hymn. People are still arriving with food for the post-Mass meal.

In his homily, Father Dueweke speaks of his ministry and his aim to establish lay leadership in the vicariate's various Hispanic communities.

"We want to live our faith, embrace the mission to live as brothers and sisters," he says.

Weaving the Gospel's agricultural imagery into the congregation's experience, Father Dueweke notes that, "People connected to the soil are connected to God. People so closely connected to God are our teachers. We need to cultivate the ground of our hearts with the pick and shovel of the Gospel, watered with the grace of baptism."

Children and adults bring up the gifts: the bread and wine, four baskets containing the offertory collection, and two baskets of large cucumbers, just picked in the nearby fields.

During Communion, worshipers come forward to receive the precious body and blood of Jesus and the blessing of the priest for their children.

With a final hymn, it is time to set up the tables for a feast of tamales, chicken, pork ribs, salads, tinga (a fiery concoction that includes chicken and is served



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Against a background of mountains and trailers, Augustinian Father Robert Dueweke preaches his homily during an outdoor Mass to welcome migrant farmworkers in Bethel, N.C., July 17.

on flat, crispy tortillas), watermelon and pastries.

As he gives the final blessing, Father Dueweke tells the parents never to lose the custom of blessing their children with the sign of the cross on their foreheads at bedtime and whenever they leave home.

"Our community is walking with Jesus," said Xavier Ramirez. "The farmworkers are important, and they need to realize that the church treasures and appreciates them."

Having a priest come to the camp to celebrate Mass tells them that, he says.

In his homily, Father Dueweke told the people that Hispanics are in America to renew the

Catholic Church.

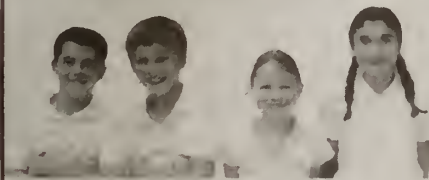
"I believe that that's part of God's plan," he said later. "Their hospitality, their value of celebrating, of caring for others — these challenge our individualistic culture."

Homemade foods that the people spent hours preparing are spread out on the tables. Father Dueweke moves among the crowd, chatting with everyone, kidding around with the children.

"Just being together outside, a celebration of community," he says. "That's what it's all about."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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LAUGHTER FOR THE SOUL

Retired deacon's new joke book provides humor for clergy

BY SHARON ROULIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHESHIRE, Conn. — "Did you wake up grumpy this morning?" "No, I just let him sleep in."

This is a favorite joke of a deacon who has compiled a book of jokes specifically designed for use by the clergy.

But the word "grumpy" is definitely a little-used word in Deacon Don Lowe's vocabulary, unless it is included in the context of a joke.

At age 91, the retired deacon from St. Bridget Church in Cheshire, Conn., in the Hartford Archdiocese, said a sense of humor has certainly contributed to his longevity.

The deacon said he was recovering from triple-bypass surgery when he decided to go through a boxful of jokes he collected over the years. At age 89, he bought a computer and used it to turn the collection into a book: "Deacon Jokes That a Pastor Can Tell — Possibly Even a Bishop."

Deacon Lowe wrote the book to give members of the clergy clean jokes and one-liners designed to raise spirits and open doors. All profits from the sales benefit the Hartford Archdiocese's diaconate program.

"We're coming along good," said the deacon. "It's taken two years and we have \$4,000 so far. I hope to make it \$5,000."

Since he was a youngster, humor has always played a role in the life of the deacon, who was born in Waterbury in 1914.

"It can help the heart. It can help ulcers. It can help blood pressure.

It can help pain," he said. "I know when I was in the hospital, humor really helped."

As a teen, he would go to the local theaters to watch the classic comedic antics of Laurel and Hardy, Harold Lloyd, Charlie Chaplin, the Marx Brothers, Ben Turpin, Buster Keaton and the Three Stooges.

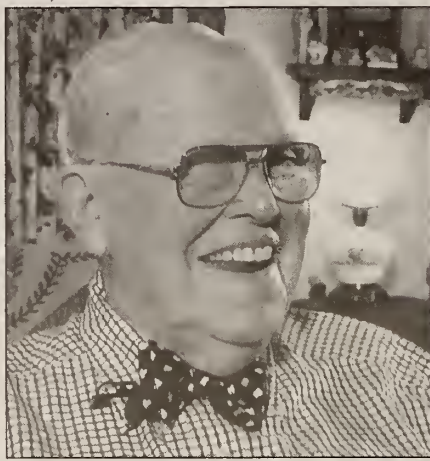
"They were certainly some of the first dispensers of early laughter and good humor on film," writes Deacon Lowe in the introduction to his book.

The deacon suggests that using humor during a sermon is a perfect way to grab parishioners' attention.

"These people, when they come to church, they've got so many problems. Not like 90 years ago. It's a lot different," he said. "So they come into church and what they want is something to calm their stress. And if a priest or a deacon tells a story, he has their attention and then he can do whatever sermon that he can that will help them."

Deacon Lowe includes tips for becoming "a pro" at telling jokes such as:

- Keep it clean.
- Be relaxed and sensitive to



CNS PHOTO BY BILL PACOCHA, CATHOLIC OBSERVER

Deacon Don Lowe, 91, retired deacon, laughs after sharing a punch line from his book.

your audience.

- Always smile.
- Take your time and exaggerate using body language.
- Never make any racial or sexist slurs.

— Give the punch line everything you have. Pause for anticipation and deliver it with a slightly raised voice.

Deacon Lowe met his wife, Ann, while the two were working in the big-band business. She was a singer and he played the drums.

After two years of dating, Don, who grew up Anglican, and Ann were married in the Episcopal Church. That was 64 years ago. They later joined the Catholic Church.

"We were remarried in the Catholic Church on our 25th anniversary, and Martin, our son, wanted to know if he was illegitimate all these years," quipped Deacon Lowe.

After serving as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist for several years in his parish, Deacon Lowe was ordained to the diaconate in 1977. He retired in 1989.

"I miss it. I can't go on the altar anymore because of my knees and the possibility of falling," he said. "But I go to Mass every morning and come close to the good Lord."

For about 40 years Deacon Lowe also used his sense of humor in his mail-order bow tie business, Lowe Bow Originals.

Deacon Lowe, who has worn bow ties his whole life, says he always had a hard time finding them.

His wife, an expert seamstress, decided to make a few for her husband. Orders for the handmade originals took off when *The Wall Street Journal* ran a front-page story about his business in 1996.

The Lowes sold the business in 1999 and finally retired. Deacon Lowe still wears a bow tie every day.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 7, 2005

Aug. 7, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
- 2) Romans 9:1-5
- 3) Matthew 14:22-33

Salvation always within our grasp

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last summer I went on vacation with my family — including parents, siblings and all the grandchildren — to the Gulf coast of Texas for a few days of beach relaxation.

One day I was sent to gather everyone for dinner. The teenagers were out in the surf.

The noise of the waves prevented my nephews from hearing my call, but since they were standing waist deep about 50 yards away, I decided to swim out to them. About 20 yards out, the water was up to my shoulders, and soon I was in over my head, swimming for all I was worth and calling out to my nephew, who still couldn't hear me.

Several minutes of frantic paddling

and shouting later I became exhausted and truly frightened. With a sandbar and visible assistance only 20 feet away, I was fighting relentless waves and my own panicked thoughts of death by drowning. Just in time my nephew turned, saw my distress and reached out an arm to drag me to the shallower water.

My relief was palpable — and I think Peter, desperately flailing about in the Sea of Galilee, must have felt the same way when the Lord came to his rescue.

Today's psalm refrain is a plea to God to "grant us your salvation," and there surely have been many theological treatises written on the meaning of that phrase. For some people, "salvation" could mean physical or mental healing, for others it could mean an assurance of eternal life, and for still others it could mean forgiveness of sin.

In Peter's particular situation as in mine, however, "salvation" was no theological idea, but an immediate intervention of God's love extended to me in a moment of extreme helplessness.

"Drowning" is a word often used to describe the very human experience of being overwhelmed by one's circumstances, whether these are of our own making or beyond our control. In such times it is not uncommon to panic. However, the Scriptures today give us hope that God's goodness and love are always within our grasp.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 7-13

Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33; Monday (St. Dominic), Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Matthew 17:22-27; Tuesday (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; Wednesday (St. Lawrence), 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; Thursday (St. Clare), Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17, Matthew 18:21-19:1; Friday, Joshua 24:1-13, Matthew 19:3-12; Saturday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus), Joshua 24:14-29, Matthew 19:13-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 14-20

Sunday (Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time), Isaiah 56:1, 6-7, Romans 11:13-15, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28; Monday (the Assumption of Mary), Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; Tuesday (St. Stephen of Hungary), Judges 6:11-24, Matthew 19:23-30; Wednesday, Judges 9:6-15, Matthew 20:1-16; Thursday (St. Jane de Chantal), Judges 11:29-39, Matthew 22:1-14, Friday (St. John Eudes), Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22, Matthew 22:34-40; Saturday (St. Bernard), Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17, Matthew 23:1-12.

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St. Michael Catholic Church
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Cary, NC 27513
Or e-mail LTSearch@stmichaelscary.org

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On-time delivery lucky for priest

KOVACIC, from page 1

alone in a Belmont apartment. He became confused with the settings on his thermostat, accidentally turning on the heat instead of his air conditioner.

Deal, a UPS driver for 15 years, considers many of her regular clients to be family, including Msgr. Kovacic. That day she was nearing the end of her route and making a delivery to his apartment that required his signature.

When she knocked, he answered that he could not come to the door because he was very sick.

The door was unlocked and Deal went inside to check on him. She noticed the temperature of the apartment to be nearly 100 degrees.

Deal quickly attempted to cool down Msgr. Kovacic by washing his face with water-soaked towels from the kitchen. She wanted to call 911, but he initially refused the offer.

Deal attempted to contact other parishioners she knows from her route and from the church bulletin, but could not reach anyone. She then took him to his neighbor's apartment where the air conditioner was on. Still burning up, Msgr. Kovacic agreed to let Deal call 911.

The monsignor was transported via ambulance to Gaston Memorial Hospital in Gastonia, where he was treated and released around midnight. A doctor at-

tending Msgr. Kovacic indicated Deal's quick response helped save his life.

While Msgr. Kovacic was being treated, parishioners from Queen of the Apostles Church and fellow Knights of Columbus from Council 11076 flooded the waiting room. Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who was attending a Catholic Social Services board meeting in Hickory, visited Msgr. Kovacic and administered the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

It was a scene reminiscent of the monsignor's 85th birthday celebration, where hundreds of parishioners and Knights gathered with him as the bishop rededicated Queen of the Apostle Church's Family Life Center as the Msgr. Anthony Kovacic Parish Center Jan. 9.

During that celebration, Carl Heil, a parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Church, noted Msgr. Kovacic's dedication to his flock.

"If he hears someone is in the hospital, sometimes he's there before the doctor," said Heil. "He's always there to help."

Although retired since 1994, Msgr. Kovacic continues to serve the Diocese of Charlotte and often travels to celebrate Mass across western North Carolina.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.

Tom Stocker is a parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

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Discussing the Eucharist



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK RYDER

Thirty members of Ascension, a teen music group at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, spent July 10-15 in the Blue Ridge Mountains at Lake Junaluska focusing on "The Eucharist: Christ Living Within Us." The retreat consisted of morning reflections, journaling and evening devotions. Father James Hawker, vicar of education and pastor of St. Luke Church, joined the teens for a roundtable discussion on church and spiritual issues, and celebrated Mass and the sacrament of reconciliation for the group. During the week, the youths had opportunities for horseback riding, rafting and swimming.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Harry Potter and the half-baked PR spell

More than sorcery at work in all the media fuss

In the days leading up to the release of the latest Harry Potter book, the news media were abuzz with stories that seemed to pit Pope Benedict XVI against Harry the apprentice wizard. But if you look closely at the incident, you will see the magic wand of public relations was stirring a cauldron of soupy public opinion.

The facts as related in some news stories are that when Pope Benedict was still Cardinal Ratzinger, he corresponded with the German author Gabriele Kuby, who'd written the book, "Harry Potter: Good or Bad." In a brief note the cardinal wrote, "It is good, that you enlighten people about Harry Potter, because those are subtle seductions, which act unnoticed and by this deeply distort Christianity in the soul, before it can grow properly."

This happened in 2003. There must have been an invisibility cloak over the information because it wasn't considered newsworthy in 2003, or 2004 for that matter. But of course in 2005, Cardinal Ratzinger became the Holy Father. A new pope coupled with the long-delayed release of the latest Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," and presto! A news story appears.

The Vatican probably contributed to the ensuing frenzy by refusing to make any additional comments on behalf of the pope. That allowed the news media to pursue one of their favorite angles — call it the "David and Goliath" treatment. The teenage Harry was pitted against the magisterium of the holy Catholic Church.

The timing of this particular news story tells you something about how the news media work.

Why wasn't this newsworthy in 2003 when Cardinal Ratzinger was an important figure in the Catholic Church? It is likely that this fish of a news story was floating out there in the vast sea of information that makes up the Internet. But no one was biting, most likely because no one was promoting it to news organizations.

Much of what you read in a newspaper or see on TV originated as an idea in a public relations person's mind. Press releases are written, phone calls are made and the "news" evolves into soundbites and quotes

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



that are consumed by an audience who is very blurry about the difference between entertainment and education.

It is good for any media project, even something as popular as Harry Potter, to have controversy associated with it. No doubt there was someone associated with either the Potter phenomenon or Kuby's book who was promoting this one.

But there are a couple of things about this episode that need to be considered. First, Cardinal Ratzinger/Pope Benedict's intellect as a theologian is widely respected. His views, however brief, on the development of a young person's soul are worthy of reflection.

I've read two Harry Potter books and I found them charming and fun. But the books do glorify the dark art of sorcery. And even though Harry represents the triumph of good over evil, is it fair to ask, as the cardinal seemed to, if the ends justify the means? If you conclude that Harry's adventures at Hogwarts School are all childish fun, that's fine, too.

The other item that was only scarcely covered was what Cardinal Ratzinger did after writing to Kuby in 2003. According to the Catholic News Service, he asked Msgr. Peter Fleetwood, then an official at the Pontifical Council for Culture, to review the book "Harry Potter: Good or Bad."

Msgr. Fleetwood wrote Kuby a four-page letter in which he basically told her she was reading too much into what is essentially children's literature. Msgr. Fleetwood never heard back from the author.

"Lumos" is the word Harry Potter uses to bring light to darkness. The tidbit of information about Msgr. Fleetwood ruins the David vs. Goliath angle and, not surprisingly, was overlooked in most of the ensuing media coverage.

Too many facts, it seems, can sometimes ruin a good story.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Why do we blame only Pilate for Jesus' suffering?

Q. In the Apostles Creed, we say Christ "suffered under Pontius Pilate." Other than Mary, he is the only person mentioned by name. We don't place total blame for the suffering and death of Jesus on Judas or anyone else. Why would Pilate be pointed out in the Apostles and Nicene creeds? (New Jersey)

A. It does seem strange, but several reasons have been offered. Some have said, for example, that in the creeds the death of Jesus is explained by the oppressive cruelty and viciousness of Pilate, whose evil nature as Roman procurator of Judea was notorious even in Rome.

More likely, however, Pilate is

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



mentioned simply to put the death of Jesus into its specific place in history. Basing dates on the reign of a particular king or ruler, or on wars and other major events, was common before our style of calendar came into general use.

Letters to The Editor

Msgr. Allen's missionary spirit was crucial

Msgr. Richard Allen, recently deceased ("Msgr. Allen, retired priest, dies at 74," June 24), was one of the outstanding priests to serve the Catholics of North Carolina as well as many others not of the Catholic faith.

Msgr. Allen had a missionary spirit. He left his home in upstate New York to serve out his priesthood in North Carolina, which, until recently, was the least Catholic state in America. He never lost that missionary spirit, always attuned to where the need was and coming up with creative outreach to meet the needs of the people of God.

And when he reached retirement age at 70, he volunteered again to start a new ministry in far-away Alaska, where he had always dreamed of serving.

I am grateful to have served twice as his parochial vicar and have known him as both a mentor and friend. I pray to Almighty God in thanksgiving for this great priest and that our good God will raise up this life-giving missionary spirit in me and in every priest privileged to serve in North Carolina.

— Father John Vianney Hoover
New Creation Monastery, Charlotte

A different look at Harry

I read your July 22 letter to the editor ("Closer look at Harry Potter needed") with some amusement. My 13-year-old son has read and reread the Harry Potter series many times. I have read each book only once. I was concerned when he first started reading them because of the

possible content. However, now I read them because I just plain enjoy them. This is saying something for a person who finds reading quite the chore.

I missed the references to urination, excrement, "private parts" and students going off "into the bushes." I'm assuming it's because they were not integral parts of the plot.

The "possible allusion to abortion and fetal tissue research — plants which look like babies are to be chopped up to make medicine" is just an illusion. I thought they looked more like the Munchkins from the Wizard of Oz. I guess when you read something with an agenda, the story takes on a whole new meaning.

— William M. Gordy
Winston-Salem

Religion and science

I am a product of 12 years of Catholic education that included distinct biology and religion classes. I am also the result of growing up in a very prayerful Catholic family.

The complementary and distinct natures of science and religion were always very clear to me. Science attempts through experimentation and observation to tell us the what, when, how and where. Religion tells us the why.

Through the scientific method, I was taught to have a critical eye and offer theories through experimental evidence. Through prayer and liturgy, the universe that science exposed convinced me of God's hand everywhere. The idea that I am either a man of faith or a man of science is misguided. I am both.

I, as a Catholic, believe in Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn's premise that Catholics cannot view evolution as random selection. It is an axiom of our Catholic faith, long established and believed. Religion teaches us that God's hand guided evolution, science investigates how that occurred — once again, the complementary and distinct natures of science and religion.

— David Matvey
Charlotte

Where will the high court go with same-sex marriage?

DECISION MAY BE THREAT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

When the U.S. Senate begins hearings on a new Supreme Court justice to replace the retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, we should not forget one of the most blatant acts of judicial activism in modern time: the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decree that a same-sex relationship can be a marriage.

Canada is barreling toward national approval of same-sex marriage, and judicial challenges to traditional marriage populate lower courts across the United States. It is only a matter of time — likely less than two years — before the U.S. Supreme Court will be petitioned for its view.

Catholics have a well-formed theology on the underlying question. It was put nicely not long ago by Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec City in testimony before Canada's Parliament. Cardinal Ouellet warned that the civil foundation of society was being undermined by "subjectivism," the idea that rights are not based on objective, external reality but upon personal desires.

Objective reality is denied by same-sex marriage, Cardinal Ouellet observed, since "a man is a man, and a woman is a woman, and their union is marriage. If you take [the conjugal or unitive aspects] out, you don't have marriage. ... You have a generic sort of union, but you don't have marriage."

Guest Column

DOUGLAS
KMEC
CNS COLUMNIST



These are wise, prudent words, and the cardinal reaffirmed the church's teaching that homosexual orientation itself, if not acted upon, ought never be the basis for hatred or unmindful discrimination.

But the cardinal had another important caution that should not escape notice by America's Catholic faithful: Should same-sex marriage be approved, it will marginalize Catholic belief. In the cardinal's words, "It will put religious freedom under attack in the very near future."

The threat to religious freedom is an aspect of the same-sex effort that seldom is appreciated fully. Once marriage is redefined, those who remain opposed will be labeled discriminators.

True, churches and religious bodies likely will be exempted from performing homosexual ceremonies directly, but collateral lawsuits will be filed alleging the homiletic teaching of traditional marriage to be a "hate crime."

As the cardinal reflected to Catholic News Service, in remaining faithful to church teaching, at a minimum, "I will be accused of homophobia."

Once same-sex marriage is in place, the assault against the church will not stop with chilling catechetical speech. Efforts will be made to deny Catholic and other churches maintaining the objective definition of marriage the use of public parks, participation in public contracts — such as the delivery of services to the poor or the homeless through parish-based or faith-based organizations — and ultimately the church's tax exemption.

How do we know this is the likely scenario? Because these are the measures taken against the Boy Scouts, even after the Scouts vindicated their right before the U.S. Supreme Court not to be compelled by a state "nondiscrimination" law to accept an active homosexual as a leader.

Some years ago the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the IRS' denial of a tax-exemption to Bob Jones University. The university had a policy, based on its fundamentalist reading of the Bible, to discourage interracial dating. This, said the court, was not in the public interest, whether or not the belief was religiously motivated. Analogous?

Maybe, at this moment in time, we are capable of distinguishing immoral racial discrimination from the discernment of what is and is not objectively valid marriage. But the legal sanctioning of same-sex marriage may make what is now obvious socially unacceptable.

This, as Cardinal Ouellet said, is an invitation to "juridical chaos."

Or, as the policy director of a Christian fellowship organization commented, "Christians are going to inhabit the closet so recently vacated by gays."

Kmiec is a columnist, and law professor at Pepperdine Law School in California.

Coping with terrorism

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



I was chilled July 7 when I heard bombs had exploded in London. I thought: "Now we have another anguish to cope with. How much more can we take?"

At this moment of high anxiety, we need more than ever to keep our perspective on life. When the London bombings occurred, the Scripture readings in the Liturgy of the Hours were recounting the life of King David.

During his last days, David never was allowed to enjoy complete peace. His son Absalom had turned against him and eventually was killed. Then Adoniah laid claim to the throne, forcing David, who was close to dying, to step in and have his son Solomon anointed king.

Throughout the Bible and history we learn that just when peace is within a nation's grasp, something comes along to disrupt it. Humankind is never allowed to rest on its laurels.

The war on terrorism is a historical reminder that just as there is goodness and glimmers of peace, we nonetheless continue to witness evil and conflict.

To cope with terrorism we must keep reviewing the history of evil and reminding ourselves that events similar to those have happened before and will happen again as long as there is sin. Facing this fact helps to remove the fear that this sort of evil has happened only to us, that we are alone and unique in our anguish.

We must also remember that the worst defeat we confront in the face of terrorism is losing heart. The cry "Fear not!" is heard repeatedly throughout the Gospels and church history.

A perplexed Mary who hears she is to be the mother of God is comforted by the words of an angel saying, "Fear not Mary, the Holy Spirit is with you." Christ soothes frightened apostles in a storm with the assurance, "Fear not!" We read of martyrs during the early persecutions inspiring each other to take heart and trust in God.

No doubt the war on terrorism will be long and bloody, it will take the best military and technological strength to gain victory, and we will need a spirit of patriotism to keep heart.

But in all this we must never doubt the power of prayer! Prayer keeps our hearts open and our thinking clear because it overcomes hardness of heart and the blindness this causes. More than this, prayer renews our faith in God.

As Job's faith in God was his strength, so keeping faith through prayer is our strength. God has the ultimate answer for overcoming terrorism. Only an open heart can read God's mind and learn the answers.

The job chase

It happens all the time; but it now seems to be happening more frequently. Layoffs, cutbacks, downsizing, letting workers go. Where do they go? That's the job-search question that more and more work-force veterans are asking every day.

General Motors is cutting back. So is Ford. Winn-Dixie is letting 22,000 employees go and closing all stores in four states, remaining open only in Florida.

Fortune magazine gave its white-collar readers a cover story in May that used the print equivalent of a megaphone, saying on the front cover: "50 and fired ... is bad enough. But now out-of-work execs are facing a permanent vacation. How to tell if your career is at risk."

Business Week's cover Feb. 3 asked, "Is your job next?" These words appeared beneath a picture of a well-dressed executive hanging onto a pallet loaded with crates being lifted onto a ship: "A new round of globalization is sending upscale jobs offshore. They include chip design, engineering, basic research — even financial analysis. Can America lose these jobs and still prosper?"

Yes, some careers are at risk, but even so America will continue to prosper. This doesn't resolve the issue for the mid-career, middle-age woman or man who has been or may be set adrift in these times of economic uncertainty.

Looking Around

FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST



Where do they go?

In writing about this for Catholic newspapers, I would be remiss not to suggest that job seekers first take the matter to prayer and next weave an active network of friends who, if asked, surely will help. "Network, network, network" is the advice successful job seekers always offer to others.

Praying the psalms is a daily routine that I recommend to anyone looking for work.

About 10 years ago I studied the problem of mid-career executive unemployment in America. I spoke with managers who experienced firsthand the meanings of "downsizing" and "restructuring," new words then for the old realities of layoff and unemployment.

I interviewed many displaced white-collar workers and found that they hurt

in the same vulnerable places where blue-collar workers feel the pain of job loss. Not just the wallet or bank account, but in stomach knots, heavy hearts and soul-deep fears of never working again.

One reality I examined was religion's relevance in their lives. I inquired what they did or read to shore up their spirits. The psalms often were mentioned as sources of spiritual encouragement and support.

To anyone who is a believer and who has experienced mid-career unemployment, this should come as no surprise.

Simply praying is not enough. My now out-of-print book "Finding Work Without Losing Heart" offers a lot of practical advice. It can be downloaded for free from my former parish's Web site (www.trinity.org).

Not least in the order of practical importance during the search is spousal support. I was peripherally helpful to a successful job seeker who told me this:

"It would not have been possible without someone as strong as my wife. She constantly amazes me with her faith in our Lord and in me.

"I'm not a powerful person; I only work hard. One morning when I about to leave for a job search, she kissed me and said, 'John, there's nothing to fear; we've been poor before, and we had a lot of fun when we were, so who cares?'"

"I went out the door powered by rocket fuel. I tell you this because it's at the heart of what every job seeker needs."



Diocese of Charlotte
**THE YEAR OF
 THE EUCHARIST**



This Papal Monstrance,
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CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER, CHARLOTTE, NC

Free and open to the public

Friday September 23rd:

7 p.m. Concert of Sacred music, Convention Center
 Nocturnal Adoration, Cathedral of St. Patrick

Saturday September 24th:

8 a.m. Eucharistic procession through Uptown Charlotte
 11 a.m. Speakers and programs for: Adults, Hispanics, Teens & Youth
 4:30 pm Eucharistic Congress Mass

Speakers include: Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William Curlin

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa
 "Stay With Us"

Johnette S. Benkovic
 "In His Eucharistic Heart"

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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Mystery of the Mass, Part 22;

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VOLUME 14 No 39

Finding strength in weakness

'I'm the luckiest guy around,' said cancer patient

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — Some nights, the pain was so excruciating, all Chris Fuerst could do was lie in bed, clutching his crucifix and crying for God to take away his suffering.

Diagnosed with adenocarcinoma of the lung — the most common form of lung cancer — Fuerst had an illness many smokers and past smokers develop in their 60s and 70s.

But Fuerst never smoked. He grew up in a non-smoking household. He exercised regularly and ate a healthful diet. And he was 34 years old.

A devastating diagnosis

The first sign that something was wrong was when he developed a pain in his right side in the summer of 2003. The second came when fluid

See STRENGTH, page 5



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

The Fuerst family — Kathy, Gabrielle, Michael and Chris — enjoy a summer afternoon in their backyard Aug. 1. Chris Fuerst was diagnosed with lung cancer in January 2004 at age 34. Fuerst believed his illness was the catalyst for a dramatic spiritual transformation he experienced during the last 19 months of his life.

'Jesus' to appear at Eucharistic Congress

DIOCESAN EVENT DRAWS INSPIRING, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKERS

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — A well-known actor, a retired bishop and a priest who gets his message across through the use of martial arts are among the speakers to appear at the upcoming diocesan Eucharistic Congress.

The inaugural congress will take place at the Charlotte Convention Center Friday evening, Sept. 23, and all day Saturday, Sept. 24.

James Caviezel, best known for his portrayal of Jesus in the Mel Gibson film,

See CONGRESS, page 6

Revival of the Spirit 2005

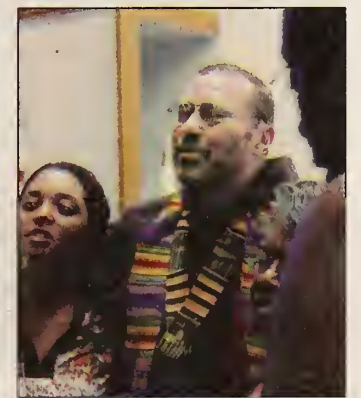


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Franciscan Father James Goode and family pray during "Revival of the Spirit" at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Aug. 13.

For more coverage, see page 12.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Young (and young-at-heart) parishioners of St. Ann Church in Charlotte dance the night away during the church's 50th anniversary celebration Aug. 13. The weekend's festivities also included Mass, a dinner and a brunch.

A golden moment for Charlotte parish

St. Ann Church celebrates milestone anniversary

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For a half century, the little church on the corner of Park Road and Hillside Avenue has been the spiritual home for many Catholics living in the area.

The 700 families of St. Ann Church celebrated this milestone with Masses, a dinner, brunch and dancing the

weekend of Aug. 13 and 14.

In the 50 years since the establishment of St. Ann Church on Aug. 15, 1955, parishioners have built a church, school and activity center. In 1961, they helped establish a mission church, St. Vincent de Paul Church, which gained parish status just four years later.

Several charter members of

See MILESTONE, page 13

With Christ's love

Deacon, campus minister honored with awards

| PAGE 4

Gift of giving

Businesswoman leaves funds; planned giving helps church

| PAGE 6

Perspectives

Bishop Jugis on stem-cell research; Masses for the dead

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAITH AHOY



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN S. FUENTES

Father Jerome Dillon of South Sioux City, Neb., a U.S. Navy chaplain, celebrates Mass aboard the combat support ship USS Sacramento. The Omaha archdiocesan priest holds the rank of commander.

From ship decks to desert sands, priests serve military

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Father Jerome Dillon walks the polished decks of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and travels through the blowing sands of the desert to care for souls in need.

During his 20 years as a chaplain for the U.S. Navy, these remote locations have become his home away from home, where he serves his parishioners with love.

"I feel it is a great responsibility to provide for the sacramental and spiritual needs (of sailors and Marines) at sea and abroad, but especially when they are in harm's way," he said by phone from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California.

Father Dillon, a commander, is one of the many priests making sure the spiritual needs of military men and women are being met as they work to protect and defend the Constitution.

The chaplains serve personnel and families of the Army, Air Force and Navy, with Navy chaplains also serving the Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard.

Catholic chaplains minister to about 1.4 million Catholics in the military, said Auxiliary Bishop John J. Kaising of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

That figure includes 375,000 people in uniform and more than 900,000 family members of active-duty personnel; 300,000 Catholics in the Reserve and Coast Guard; and those serving in government service overseas or in Veterans Affairs hospitals.

The bishop, who is vicar of chaplains, said that 349 U.S. priests serve

full-time as chaplains on loan from 147 dioceses and 37 religious communities.

A military chaplain is expected to work day and night and to visit people everywhere — on land, in the air and at sea. Many times the chaplain is the only Catholic priest in the area.

They supervise other chaplains, manage budgets and serve as pastors for Catholic parishes. They also make hospital visits, and provide worship services, sacramental rites, religious education programs and spiritual direction.

A large part of their ministry also involves counseling. Many personnel are dealing with a family crisis back home, problems within their own units, racism, spousal problems, suicide and separation from loved ones.

Military chaplains, too, face challenges, many of which are the same as for civilian priests. But priests in the military also must deal with the unique circumstances of serving thousands of parishioners, many of whom are young people from various backgrounds, cultures and religions. The parish community is constantly changing, too.

With thousands of women and men serving in the military, the need for priests who can minister to them continues to grow. This year, 10 bases in the United States will lose the priest assigned to the installations, meaning that those bases will have to depend on a part-time civilian priest from the local area.

Young people in the military "are hungering for food for their souls," Father Dillon said. "They are not faithless, but they do need shepherds to lead them."

U.S. bishop calls for more pressure to stop violence in Darfu

WASHINGTON (CNS) — International pressure must be applied to the Sudanese government and rebel forces in order to end the violence and suffering in the Darfur region, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' international policy committee.

A larger presence of African Union troops in Darfur was needed for a sustainable peace, said the chairman, Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla.

The bishop offered his support for a U.S. House resolution, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, which calls for an increase of African peacekeeping troops in Darfur and for the perpetrators of violence in Darfur to be brought before the International Court of Justice.

The act also calls for a stronger mandate for international troops and for an increase in logistical support for the

troops from the international community.

"We believe this legislation will give added momentum to the search for a genuine peace in Darfur and relief for its suffering people," Bishop Ricard said Aug. 10.

Bishop Ricard, who visited Darfur in August 2004, said the United States and international community "can and must do more to end this moral and humanitarian crisis."

"We cannot stand idly by while human life is threatened," he said.

After returning from his 2004 trip to Darfur, Bishop Ricard told Catholic News Service that there was "no question" that the killings in Darfur represented ethnic cleansing.

U.N. officials say more than 180,000 people have died in the last two years because of armed conflict in Darfur. Human rights advocates place the death toll as high as 400,000.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at Femcare in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

FHENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* is celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumpdown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — As a ministry to the hearing

impaired, Vanessa Pappas will sign the *Liturgy of the Word* Sept. 11 during the 10 a.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 536-6520.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Drive* will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Sept. 11, 8:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. in the family room of the Parish Center. To register, call Ed Nenninger at (704) 366-6637.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you beg God's mercy on our hurting world Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Also, we will celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. Both events take place at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, meet the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a support group for separated or divorced women and men. All are welcome to join us for encouragement and discussion with others making similar journeys at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center, Room 114. If you have any questions, call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fra-*

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope's brother released from hospital after receiving pacemaker

Msgr. Ratzinger doing 'satisfactory,' says spokesman

ROME (CNS) — Pope Benedict's older brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, was released from Rome's Gemelli hospital Aug. 6, three days after receiving a pacemaker and the morning after a visit from his brother.

Msgr. Ratzinger, 81, was taken to the hospital Aug. 3 with an irregular heartbeat. He had been staying with the pope at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Doctors inserted the pacemaker that same evening.

Pope Benedict left Castel Gandolfo in an Italian air force helicopter Aug. 5 and landed at the hospital helipad about 15 minutes later.

Alerted by the erection of security barricades and an increased police presence, about 50 patients and their visitors, as well as journalists and photog-

raphers, were on hand when the pope entered the hospital.

Pope Benedict spent about 20 minutes upstairs with his brother.

Returning to the ground floor, he blessed a new statue depicting Pope John Paul II being embraced by Mary.

Before leaving the hospital, Pope Benedict shook hands with members of the waiting crowd, blessing the sick and several small children.

After his release, Msgr. Ratzinger, a musician and the retired director of the famed Regensburg boys' choir, returned to Castel Gandolfo.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said Aug. 4 that the monsignor's postoperative condition was "satisfactory" and he was expected to be released from the hospital within a few days.

ternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., will host a *Catholic Scripture Study* beginning Sept. 18. Classes will meet Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Kovacic Center. The study is based on the writings of Scott Hahn and will address the Gospel of John. Please register by Sept. 3 by calling Wendy Hood at (704) 393-1561.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet the Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon

Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles M. Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- Aug. 27 — 5 p.m. Mass**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Christ the King Church, High Point

Aug. 28 — 11 a.m.
Dedication of new church
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

Aug. 30 — 5:30 p.m. Mass
50th Anniversary Celebration
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Sylva
- Sept. 4 — 11 a.m. Mass**
Anniversary of the dedication
Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte

Sept. 9 — 6 p.m. Mass
Triumph of the Cross Conference
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

September 11-12 — USCCB Priestly Life and Ministry Committee meeting
Washington, D.C.

Pope encourages people to make God most important part of life

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Adoring God means recognizing his presence as creator and lord of the universe and ensuring that God is the most important part of one's life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

With about 2,000 people packed into the courtyard of his summer villa south of Rome and several thousand more people gathered in the square outside the villa Aug. 7, the pope focused his address on the upcoming celebration of World Youth Day.

The theme of the Aug. 16-21 celebration in Cologne, Germany, is: "We Have Come to Worship Him."

Pope Benedict said an attitude of worship and adoration is the attitude that has marked the lives of saints throughout Christian history. It involves recognizing the greatness of God and the gift of salvation in Jesus with gratitude that "arises from the depths of one's heart and marks one's whole being," he said.

During the Cologne gathering, the pope said, the church wants to help young people from around the world reach the "peak of love," showing them

that in dedicating their lives completely to God they will discover the purpose of their existence.

The Vatican announced Aug. 8 that Catholics participating in World Youth Day events can receive a plenary indulgence if they attend any of the events or the closing Mass with prayerful devotion, receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist and offer prayers for the intentions of the pope.

"Other faithful, wherever they are during the encounter, will receive a partial indulgence if, with a contrite spirit, they ask with fervent prayers that God strengthen young Christians in their profession of the faith, that he confirm them in love and in respect for their parents" and that he help them form holy Christian families or follow a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, the Vatican statement said.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed. A plenary indulgence is the remission of all punishment, while a partial indulgence applies only to part of the punishment due.

Faith in the aftermath



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Catholic nuns holding torches leave Urakami Cathedral for a procession to Peace Park in Nagasaki Aug. 9. A Mass and procession marked the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki that killed more than 70,000 people. The Urakami neighborhood, a Catholic community, was obliterated in the attack. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. led to Japan's surrender in World War II.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

With Christ's love

Deacon, campus minister earn pastoral care awards

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — When Deacon Tom Rasmussen saw a need, he acted.

The permanent deacon at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory combined his years of experience in crisis response as a Special Bureau of Investigations agent and arson investigator, along with his master's degree in counseling, and then added a spiritual component to create a pastoral response team.

He proposed the pastoral response team to Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry, and has been helping the diocese to develop the concept. His efforts have earned him the Bishop William G. Curlin Pastoral Care Award, presented during Mass at St. Aloysius Church July 31.

The award recognizes individuals, groups and/or parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte that exemplify the principles of Christ's love in the ministry of pastoral care.

The deacon is one of two recipients this year. Gloria Schweizer, Catholic campus minister at Western Carolina University, earned the award for her care of a youth in crisis.

Pastoral response

Deacon Rasmussen first saw the need for pastoral response teams while on a parish youth mission trip when their bus driver was killed in an accident.

"I saw reactions to this up to two years afterward," he said.

He said that youths especially are vulnerable to such incidents because most deaths in this age group happen suddenly due to motor vehicle accidents, suicides or homicides.

Leaving the parish youth minister to help a youth group through a crisis is not the solution, he said.

"When tragedy happens, the youth ministers are hurting also, so we want to go into a parish and minister to the youth minister and the youth," said Deacon Rasmussen.

For his proposal, he used a model for crisis intervention with which he was familiar from his work with the SBI, but it was missing the vital spiritual aspect.

"You cannot meaningfully explain death without a belief in eternal life," he said.



PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Gloria Schweizer, Catholic campus minister at Western Carolina University, received her Bishop Curlin Pastoral Care Award because of her outreach to a student in crisis.



PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry; Deacon Tom Rasmussen, permanent deacon at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory; and Father Robert Ferris, pastor, after a July 31 Mass at which Deacon Rasmussen was presented with the Bishop Curlin pastoral care award.

Kotlowski said plans are underway to train people interested in joining pastoral response teams around the diocese as early as this fall. The diocese will need trained mental health workers, lay ecclesial ministers and youth peers to comprise the teams.

"I see the potential for this type of response going far beyond the youth populations," said Kotlowski. "When one tragedy hits, it ripples throughout the whole parish."

When the diocese piloted the program during a tragedy at a parish, at least one-third of those who came for help were adults, said Kotlowski.

Care in crisis

Schweizer, who has been involved in campus ministry for 11 years, received her award from Mary Wright, director of diocesan campus ministry, during a ministry retreat in Boone May 26.

She earned the award because of her outreach to a student who had recently become a Christian and then lost his brother to homicide.

"She dropped everything and put herself at the disposal of this young man and his family," said Kotlowski. "She provided transportation and she advocated for him to teachers and the university."

"Without a doubt, Gloria ... is the epitome of the Bishop William G. Curlin Pastoral Care Award," said Mary Wright, director of diocesan campus ministry.

"Gloria went above and beyond the call of duty with this student," said Wright, "so much so, that the parents ... called Gloria for further assistance with their son."

Now in its second year, the Bishop Curlin award originated in the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry but is not exclusively a youth ministry award, said Kotlowski.

"Each year we invite parishes to nominate individuals who are deserving of the award," he said. "The hope is that potential applicants can come from any part of the church, not just the youth ministry population."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Bishop Curlin award, contact Paul Kotlowski at (704) 370-3211.

Building spiritual bridges

**FATHER ALLEN TO SERVE AT
PONTIFICAL COLLEGE
JOSEPHINUM**

CHARLOTTE — Father John Allen, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, has been appointed recently to the faculty of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

He will serve as dean of men for the College of Liberal Arts and director of Pastoral Formation for the seminary. The appointment was announced July 29 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Ordained in May 1990, Father Allen most recently served as director of vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte, rector of the Cardinal Newman House and chaplain of Charlotte Catholic High School.

"We are very thankful to Bishop (Peter J.) Jugis for granting our request to release Father Allen for service at the seminary," said Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, rector of the Josephinum.

"I am confident that he will bring to our faculty and students his great love for the priesthood and the church, his rich experience as a pastor and his ex-



Father John Allen

ample as a teacher and mentor to seminarians and young people," said Msgr. Langsfeld.

Established in 1888, the Pontifical College Josephinum is an international seminary with a four-year college and a graduate school of theology. It is a pontifical institution immediately subject to the Holy See through the apostolic nuncio.

Thirty North American dioceses and six international dioceses are currently represented in the seminary's student body.



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Cancer patient found the spiritual side of suffering

STRENGTH, from page 1

and a small spot were found in his right lung during a routine physical exam in January 2004.

Fuerst and his wife Kathy had wanted a brother or sister for their son Michael, now 5 years old. After more than a year of trying to conceive without success, they decided to adopt. As part of the pre-adoption screening process, each had a physical.

Fuerst was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. His doctors couldn't explain why an athletic, 34-year-old nonsmoker would develop lung cancer.

Three days after his diagnosis he had surgery, with no results. A course of chemotherapy had no effect except to leave him weak and sick.

The prognosis was grim: He had less than a 1 percent chance of surviving more than five years, and his doctors

gave him just eight to 10 months to live.

"We were basically told, 'Pack your bags and get your things in order,'" Fuerst said.

Since medical treatments had failed to rid him of cancer, Fuerst decided to attack his tumor with prayer, a tool he had always used in his everyday life. He said countless novenas, touched first-class relics of Blessed Mother Teresa, even visited Guadalupe, Mexico. None provided the miracle cure for which he had hoped.

Ten months after his diagnosis, Fuerst was still alive and feeling well enough to walk a half marathon.

"Just because you have a terminal illness, it's not the end of the world," Fuerst said.

Graces of a terminal illness

Fuerst's doctor suggested he keep a journal to track how he felt from day to day. Soon, he began recording how he felt spiritually as well as physically.

He had always been a devout Catho-



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Chris Fuerst, right, went on an extraordinary journey of faith following his diagnosis of lung cancer, including the birth of daughter Gabrielle, who was conceived while Fuerst was undergoing chemotherapy.

lic, building on the foundation his parents, Robert and Ruth Ann, provided for him as a boy. While in his 20s and early 30s, he regularly attended daily Mass, spent time in eucharistic adoration and prayed novenas throughout the week.

Fuerst said that through his illness, he was granted a number of graces, which he called his "graces of a terminal illness."

"I feel like I'm the luckiest guy around," Fuerst said. "I'm 35 years old and I have come so far in my spiritual life ... I am feeling closer and closer to God each and every day."

As his body weakened, Fuerst found his spirit strengthening. Where he had once valued quantity of prayers, he focused on the quality of his prayer time.

"My body is really going downhill fast," he wrote in his journal. "But I feel my spiritual life is doing nothing but taking off — higher and higher."

Fuerst took great comfort in the late Pope John Paul II's ideas on the value of suffering, that it is God's gift to the church and to the world.

"By suffering, I have opened myself up to dependence on God," he said. "It is always a choice. Follow God or not. If you do, you are better for it, but it does not mean that your life will be without suffering."

As expected, Fuerst's illness impacted his marriage and family. He described his eight-year marriage to Kathy at "tremendously wonderful." Even so, their love grew "a hundred fold" since his diagnosis.

"If it wasn't for him, I don't know if I'd have the strength or faith to make it through this trying time" said Kathy Fuerst. "He would never let me give up or give in."

Gone were petty arguments and rigid schedules. They enjoyed each other and their children as much as possible, as often as possible.

"(Kathy) is my advocate and my friend. She cares for me and she cares about me," Fuerst said. "I, in turn, love and care for her more deeply than ever."

Fuerst came to rely on others, rather than always being the "doer" — helping others at church and in the neighborhood. Two teenage brothers from church mowed the lawn. Neighbors and friends brought meals and baby-sat for

the children.

"It is a sign of humility to accept one's offering ... because you never really know how much (it) means to the person giving it," Fuerst said.

An unexpected blessing

When Fuerst was diagnosed with cancer, he and Kathy thought they had the answer to her inability to become pregnant a second time.

"Obviously, we could not get pregnant because of me — case closed," Fuerst said. "Once again, the Lord surprised us and we got pregnant."

On March 25, 2005 — Good Friday — Gabrielle Fuerst was born.

"(Gabrielle) has taught us yet another lesson with relation to God and his plan for us," Fuerst said. "Kathy and I feel strongly that we are children of love and these two children we have, out of love, are really God's children as well."

Fuerst found a spiritual mentor and companion in his pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson.

"Chris became a mystic because of his devotion to the cross," said Father Robinson.

By early August 2005, the cancer had spread through his lymphatic system and into his brain. His doctors gave him only a few months, perhaps even weeks, to live. Still, he lived each day as fully as possible, treasuring his newfound relationship with God and his deeper love for his family.

"Recently, I asked Chris if he was ready to walk into the arms of God," said Father Robinson. "He said, 'No, Father, I want to jump into his arms.'"

In the early morning hours of Aug. 16, 2005, Chris Fuerst passed away in his home, surrounded by his family, friends and pastor.

His will be the first memorial Mass celebrated in the new Our Lady of Mercy Church after its dedication Mass Aug. 28 — a Mass during which he was supposed to be the cross-bearer.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



Join the Carmelite Friars in Prayer as We Honor Saint Theresita, The Little Flower

"Love attracts love..."

In celebration of the Little Flower's life and spirituality, we would like to include your intentions in two Novena Masses from October 2-10 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown and the Basilica of Saint Theresita in Lisieux, France.

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Novena Prayer to Saint Theresita

(To be said every day for nine days.)

O Saint Theresita to you all life was a miracle! I pray to you, Powerful Intercessor, to lighten my burdens by asking the Lord for miraculous intervention. You have promised to let a "shower of roses fall from Heaven." Please pray with me for His love to wash over me and heal me—physically, emotionally and spiritually. When I am alone, reach into my heart with peace and comfort, and when I am afraid, bring me new hope and strength in the Lord. With confidence, I place in your hands this special favor (state petition). ~ Amen.

Day of discernment



COURTESY PHOTO

High school and college students discuss possible callings to the priesthood with Bishop Peter J. Jugis, priests and seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte during a vocations discernment day held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Aug. 5.

Young men gather to explore vocations to priesthood

ARDEN — Almost 50 male high school and college students gathered with Bishop Peter J. Jugis, priests and seminarians to explore their possible callings to the priesthood.

The gathering of teenagers and young men from around the diocese for the day of discernment was held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Aug. 5.

"A number of priests have been suggesting that we hold an event such as this for some time," said Father John Putnam, acting vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"I was very excited about the response, and we certainly plan to hold these days in the future."

The discernment day was organized by Father Putnam and hosted by Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church.

Bishop Jugis spoke of the nature of the priesthood — how the one priesthood of Christ is continued in time through ordination, so that the Good Shepherd might still feed his sheep through the sacraments of the church, supremely the holy Eucharist.

"Priests are for the sake of the Eucharist," Bishop Jugis said.

In addition to attending Mass celebrated by Bishop Jugis, the students spent the day in prayer, eucharistic adoration, recitation of the rosary, confes-

sion and talks on proper formation of young men and the chief principles of discernment.

The students learned that virtue and character are stressed in formation, and that they should avoid the influences of modern culture that may tempt them toward self-absorption and fear of personal sacrifice.

Those who sensed a vocation to the priesthood were challenged to come to a place in their lives where they would be willing to accept the calling.

"It is obvious that vocations are there," said Father Putnam. "We just have to encourage them and provide the means through which they can come to fruition."

The students also enjoyed recreational activities and question-and-answer sessions with the bishop, priests and seminarians.

WANT MORE INFO?

The Diocese of Charlotte welcomes all inquiries about vocations to the priesthood. Please call, e-mail, or write to:

Father John T. Putnam
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203

jputnam@charlottediocese.org
(704)370-3341

Speakers come to congress

CONGRESS, from page 1

"The Passion of the Christ," will speak Friday evening in a program featuring sacred music by a 75-voice choir comprised of singers from around the diocese.

Caviezel frequently speaks to large audiences about his passion for his Catholic faith. Caviezel's wife, Kerri, will address the congress on Saturday.

The homilist for the Saturday morning Eucharistic Holy Hour is Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, who retired as bishop of Charlotte in 2002. Bishop Curlin's soft-spoken, inspirational storytelling is well known throughout the diocese.

After Bishop Curlin's talk and welcoming remarks from Bishop Peter J. Jugis, the congress program will be divided into four separate "tracks," each including speakers and activities.

The Children's Track is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. The Teen Track is for youths in sixth through 12th grade. The Hispanic Track and the General Track are for adults.

In addition to a variety of activities and a play, children will hear from Father Antoine Thomas, a member of the Congregation of St. John, who understands how teens and youths can embrace and be enriched by spending time with the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Thomas also will be a featured speaker in the Teen Track.

Also speaking to teens will be Father Leo Patalinghug, a priest from

Westminster, Md., who will entertain and inspire teens with break dancing and karate; Charlie Aeschliman, a former Navy S.E.A.L. and basketball-handling champion, who will share his story of faith and showcase his basketball skills; and Father Francis Mary Stone, host of the EWTN program "Life on the Rock," who will deliver his straightforward talk "The Extreme Make-Over: Putting on the Armor of Christ."

The Hispanic and the General tracks will share speakers who will present talks in both English and Spanish. They are:

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, a specialist in the interpretation of Scripture and tradition; Franciscan Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II as the preacher of the pontifical household; and Dr. Dora Tobar, a speaker and theologian from The Catholic University in Washington D.C.

In the General Track will be Johnette Benkovic, a Catholic evangelization apostolate with outreaches in television, radio, print and Internet communications; and popular theologian Dr. Scott Hahn, a professor at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

The Eucharistic Congress ends with a vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Eucharistic Congress, visit www.goeucharist.com or see the ad on page 20.

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WRITERS SOUGHT

Last call for manuscripts!

The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.



Mysterium Fidei

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 22

Last time, we examined the sacred words of institution and consecration, which constitute the heart of the Mass. We discovered the amazing truth that these are not merely historical or biblical words used to recount the activity of the Last Supper, but in fact, in the Mass, Christ truly represents his sacrifice through his priest acting as his instrument.

Bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ as the words of consecration are spoken by Christ through each individual Catholic priest throughout time and history. All the prayers of the Mass until this moment prepare for our Lord's sacramental arrival; from this moment forward, when Christ is truly present on the altar, the priest again addresses the heavenly Father on behalf of the church.

This week let us consider the four remaining parts of the Eucharistic Prayer that are now addressed to the Father.

Anamnesis

Immediately following the consecration, the celebrant announces, "Mysterium fidei," (that is, "[Let us proclaim] the mystery of faith") and we respond with one of the four options that expresses the Paschal Mystery: "Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory."

This acclamation leads us into the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer, called by its Greek name, anamnesis, or "memorial." The anamnesis is a prayer of remembrance in which the church calls to mind the Lord's passion, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

We are reminded that the church is acting in memory of our Lord and obeying his explicit command, "Do this in memory of me." We are mindful of our Lord's parting mandate and the church rejoices in her fidelity to Christ; we are, in fact, faithfully following the command to "Do this in memory of me."

Oblation

The oblation or offering follows the memorial in the Eucharistic Prayer. Prior to the consecration, the priest asks the Lord to accept the gifts of bread and wine as a token of ourselves. But now, following the consecration, the bread and wine no longer exist; they have been changed into the body and blood of Christ. Christ is now offered to the Father.

Guest Column

FATHER
MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



In the Roman canon, three Old Testament persons are mentioned whose offerings were acceptable to the Father: 1) Abel, who offered the firstborn lamb of his flock; 2) Melchisedech, who offered bread and wine as a priest of God; and 3) Abraham, who was willing to offer his own son.

Each of these three biblical sacrifices foreshadows the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which fulfilled all others. Christ is the high priest offering the Mass, but in the oblation, we discover that he is also the victim being offered.

Intercessions

Because Christ is the high priest and mediator between God and man, intercessory prayers form the next part of the Eucharistic Prayer. The intercessions make clear that each Mass is offered for the salvation of the whole world in union with the entire church on earth, as well as in heaven. All members of Christ's mystical body are included in the benefits of the Mass: we seek the intercession of those in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the angels and saints; we pray for the living and we intercede on behalf of the dead.

The pope, the bishop of the diocese and the clergy are always mentioned, since union with the pope and the local bishop establishes our unity with the Catholic Church throughout the world.

Doxology

With the close of the intercessions comes the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer. The formula, known as the Doxology, is common to all eucharistic prayers. The Greek word doxology simply means "a word of glory or praise."

The priest raises the chalice and paten in a final word of praise to the Father as he prays, "...all glory and honor is yours Almighty Father, forever and ever." The faithful conclude the Eucharistic Prayer with the "Amen," which may be recited or sung.

St. Jerome wrote in the fifth century that the "amen" at the conclusion of the canon "resounded in heaven, as a celestial thunderclap in the Roman basilicas." Let us pray that our assent, that our "amen," will proceed from the same ardent faith, hope and love.

We will continue next time by examining the Communion Rite.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ten Boy Scouts and adult leaders from Troop 171, all members of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, are the first Scouts in North Carolina to receive the Year of the Eucharist Scouting patch. Pictured are: (back row, from left) Gary Tadvick, Tyler LaChapelle, Nick D'Auria; Tam Ayers, Frank D'Auria, Debbie D'Auria, (front row, from left) Bill Reilly, Patrick Reilly, Anthony D'Auria and Jonathan Tadvick.

Understanding Jesus' presence

Local Scouts first in North Carolina to earn Eucharist patches

MOORESVILLE — Seven Catholic Boy Scouts and three adult leaders from Troop 171, all members of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, recently received their Year of the Eucharist Scout patch.

The Scouts are the first in North Carolina to receive the patch, created by Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Diocese of Dodge City, Kan., and believed to be the only religious emblem program of this type in the country.

With the Year of the Eucharist, proclaimed by Pope John Paul II, running from October 2004 to October of this year, the purpose of the religious activity patch program is to assist Scouts in better understanding Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, the Mass as his sacrifice and the importance of eucharistic adoration.

"I see Scouts earning this patch as a tribute to Pope John Paul II," said Tim Wenzl, religious emblems coordinator for the Diocese of Dodge City's Catholic Committee on Scouting.

"The Holy Father proclaimed this special year to draw emphasis on the Eucharist. Scouts meeting the requirements and earning this patch will long remember that the pope died during the

Year of the Eucharist," he said. "They are responding to the Holy Father's call to understand the importance of the Eucharist in our Catholic faith."

There were different requirements for Scouts in first through fifth grades, for those in sixth through 12th grades, and for adult leaders.

To earn their patches, the Scouts from Troop 171 read the apostolic letter "Mane Noviscum Domine," recited the rosary and meditated on the Luminous Mysteries, discussed the meaning of Corpus Christi and identified terms associated with the Eucharist.

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

WANT MORE INFO?

Requirements for the Year of the Eucharist Scout patch, to be checked by adult leaders or parents, must be completed by October. For more information, e-mail twenzl@dcdiocese.org or call (620) 227-1556.

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Sisters of Mercy foundation awards grant to City of Charlotte

Funds will assist families in Wingate Community

CHARLOTTE — Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation awarded a three-year \$987,389 grant to the City of Charlotte Neighborhood Development Department June 22 for the Vision: Charlotte Initiative.

The initiative will deliver an innovative model of neighborhood-based integrated services, including case management, in the Wingate Community, a neighborhood in the western corridor of Charlotte.

The neighborhood is troubled by a school drop-out rate nearly three times the city average, high rates of teen pregnancy, unemployment and other conditions that contribute to its fragile status as reported in the City of Charlotte's 2004 Quality of Life Study.

The initiative effort is a collaboration between a number of Charlotte-based organizations and departments. Each of the collaborating partners will provide on-site services and resources in an integrated model to assist the educational and economic advancement of individuals and families in Wingate.

Charlotte City Council recognized the foundation at its July 25 meeting, during which Mercy Sister Mary Jerome Spradley, foundation president, and Edward Schlinkup Jr., executive director, made a formal presentation of the check to Mayor Patrick McCrory.

Program services are expected to begin in August.

"The Vision: Charlotte Initiative could become a new paradigm for service delivery to other communities," said Sister Spradley.

"The approach is holistic, focused on developing the strengths of individuals and families and reflects our desire as a foundation to promote systemic change and invest in helping people to empower themselves and improve the quality of their lives," she said.

The foundation is the charitable arm of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina and provides grants to selected tax exempt health care, educational and social service organizations, which assist women, children, the elderly and the poor.

Since it began receiving grant applications in October 1996, the foundation has awarded 582 grants totaling more than \$26 million to organizations serving underserved populations. The award to the City of Charlotte is a special initiative outside of the foundation's regular programs of grantmaking.

The city has made significant investments in the improvement of Wingate housing, infrastructure and crime rates over the past 10 years. When the foundation approached the city with an interest in funding an intensive, supportive services program that would circumvent barriers to accessibility by bringing services to the neighborhood and empowering residents to take ownership of the program and their community, the revitalization efforts already underway made Wingate a ready candidate.

"The availability of affordable housing alone cannot eliminate the effects of generations of poverty," said Sister Spradley. "Accessibility of supportive social and human services and education can make a lasting difference in revitalized communities."

"We are pleased to assist the expanded efforts by the City of Charlotte to improve this neighborhood and the lives of the people who live there," she said.

It is hoped that the long-term impact of the program will be reflected in a growing number of Wingate residents being employed and earning living wages, continuing their educations, and owning homes, said Sister Spradley.

GRANTING HELP

Funds will assist residents at House of Mercy

BELMONT — House of Mercy, a nonprofit residence for persons living with advanced AIDS, recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation.

The funds will be used for direct care services for House of Mercy residents.

"We depend on the generous contributions of our community for more than 80 percent of our budget," said Stan Patterson, House of Mercy president.

House of Mercy, the only facility of its type in the region, has housed more than 200 men and women since its founding by the Sisters of Mercy in 1991. Physical, psychological and spiritual support are provided to residents without concern for race, religion or sexual orientation.

"House of Mercy offers 24-hour compassionate care and housing for economically disadvantaged men and women living with advanced AIDS,"

said Patterson. "We provide clinical treatments and therapies designed to provide the best in medical services, as well as a variety of supplemental services to enhance the lives of our residents."

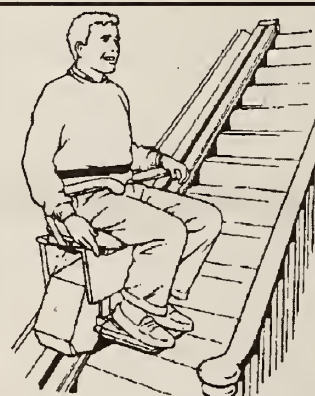
On average, 72 percent of residents at House of Mercy have been minorities and almost 30 percent have been female.

The Glenn Foundation was established by two Gastonia sisters whose advice was that the contribution was to go "where it is needed most and will do the most good."

The Glenn Foundation's funding priorities include Gaston County nonprofit agencies in the areas of human services, children and youth, arts, community improvement, education, environment, health/science and religion.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on House of Mercy, visit www.thehouseofmercy.org.



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Generous in spirit

Businesswoman leaves more than \$1.4 million to Catholic Church

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GREENSBORO — Aurelia Isle Guffey was known as a judicious, respected and successful businesswoman.

But she is also remembered for her devotion to her church and community.

"Catholicism wasn't something she practiced only on Sundays. She incorporated it into her daily life," said Bryan Guffey, her grandson.

"She was always generous in her own quiet way," said Deacon Timothy Rohan, a permanent deacon at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. "Her whole life was giving until the day she died."

Upon her death on Dec. 19, 2004, at the age of 96, Guffey found a way to continue her quiet way of giving to her church and community. She left \$1.4 million to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Catholic Social Services and two parishes.

The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the foundation and earns income over time. The principal amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in an estate plan or in an endowment agreement.

Through Guffey's gift, \$1 million went to establish an endowment in the foundation, \$412,000 went toward Catholic Social Services, and \$26,000 each went to Our Lady of Grace Church and St. Benedict Church in Greensboro.

A portion of the gifts to CSS and the parishes went into endowments in the foundation.

"By leaving her very generous gift to

the church, Mrs. Guffey is leaving a legacy in perpetuity to the things she valued when she was alive — her Catholic Church," said Jim Kelley, foundation and development director for the diocese.

Guffey, with the help of her husband, Ed, of 35 years, owned and operated one of the largest poultry hatchery operations in the Southeast. She was honored with many industry awards and citations, including being named the poultry industry's "Woman of the Year."

Born in 1908 in Westphalia, Mo., she later relocated to Greensboro, living across the street from the future Our Lady of Grace Church.

"She sat on the porch and watched them build the church," said Deacon Rohan.

"When they set the final stone in 1952, she became a parishioner and remained so until her passing," said Bryan Guffey. "Likely one of the church's oldest neighbors, she walked to Mass every Sunday morning for nearly 50 years."

Aurelia Guffey was a regular participant in and supporter of church social functions and ministries, and became a good neighbor to the clergy who passed through Our Lady of Grace Church's rectory and the women religious at the convent.

"She got to know them in a way many parishioners don't — as neighbors, as regular people," said Bryan Guffey.

"She brought eggs to the convent every week," said Deacon Rohan, who considered Aurelia Guffey a good friend for the 30 years he has been at the parish. "I thought the world of her," he said.

In 1997, she joined the Catholic Heritage Society, whose members have committed to make a planned gift to the foundation, the Diocese of Charlotte, or



Aurelia Isle Guffey

any of its parishes, schools, agencies or organizations.

"Mrs. Guffey's gift has come at a most opportune moment. It will provide CSS the funds to establish needed new programs and, just as importantly, to maintain them until other long term funding can be put in place," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Social Services.

"It is not often that such a substantial and generous gift comes our way. We are most grateful," she said.

"More people are doing what Mrs. Guffey did — taking another step in stewardship by leaving a gift to the church in a will or an estate plan after their deaths," said Kelley.

Established in 1994, the foundation now has more than 125 endowments, 10

of which were added during the past fiscal year. Almost \$1.5 million has been distributed in 11 years to parishes, schools and agencies to carry out the continuous wishes of many people who were devoted to the church.

Catholic Heritage Society

The society is open to individuals who make any of the following planned gifts: a bequest in their will; an annuity; a life estate gift; a gift of life insurance or real estate; a gift through a retirement plan; a remainder trust.

Estate gifts can be made either to the diocesan foundation or directly to a parish, school or agency.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FOUNDATION,

contact Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or jkkelley@charlottediocese.org, or go online at www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SOCIETY,

contact Judy Smith, director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Perpetuity is a long time

Planned giving can help sustain dream, church

"Perpetuity" is one of those words you don't run across every day. Chances are, you'll never hear it on the six o'clock news or read it in the evening paper. It's not something you'll see on a theater marquee.

But perpetuity is a word we relish at the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. We use it often because it describes our endowments.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, perpetuity is "the state or quality of being perpetual." The phrase "in perpetuity" means "forever or for an indefinite period."

It is said that every noise produced on earth creates sound waves that expand outward toward the infinite reaches of space. The waves extend unendingly. Or we might say, the sound waves travel in perpetuity.

Creating your own endowment at the foundation is similar to blowing a trumpet into the air. Like the far-reaching waves of the notes, the effects of your endowment will carry unendingly to future generations.

A couple from the Diocese of Charlotte established an endowment to ensure that their annual giving to their parish would continue in perpetuity. They started the fund rather modestly, but plan to enlarge it with a bequest from their estate.

For now, at least they can see how their endowment works and what they can expect from it when they are gone.

We currently have more than 125 endowments at the foundation, and they are all managed prudently by investment

Guest Column

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST



professionals. These endowments provide support for a number of parishes, schools and programs in the diocese. The goal is to obtain both annual income and long-term growth.

It is the policy of the foundation to preserve endowment principal, with some portion of the earnings available to be used on an annual basis. This means our endowment funds will last. They will continue in perpetuity. And every name associated with every endowment will endure as well.

Would you like to do something lasting for your parish, school or another Catholic entity? You need look no further than our endowment program. This is the ideal way to add to one of our existing endowments or create a new endowment.

You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will give in perpetuity, providing income for one of your dreams for years to come.

For more information, please contact Judy Smith, director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte, at (704) 371-3320 or e-mail jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

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Far and abroad



COURTESY PHOTO

Twenty-two students, parents and faculty from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville stand at an old city square in Stockholm, Sweden, July 14 as part of a tour of European cities. Led by Mike Streich, history department chair; Tara Porter, English department chair; and her husband, Dr. Tom Porter, a professor of Russian history, the students and parents experienced a high level of commentary and experience on their visits to cities including Hamburg and Leubeck, Germany; Stockholm; and Copenhagen, Denmark. The high school's summer foreign trips focus on both educational value and fun, and provide out-of-classroom experiences, such as touring a Holocaust memorial, a concentration camp and museums. Several of the students completed two semesters of Western Civilization for college credit.

Abbey professor selected for AP program reading

Dr. Coté assists with college board's AP Exams

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College's Dr. Nathalie Coté was selected this summer to participate in the annual reading and scoring of the College Board's Advanced Placement Examinations in Psychology.

"It was wonderful to spend a week with people who love teaching psychology as much as I do," said Coté, an associate professor and current chair of the college's psychology department.

"The opportunity for college professors to mingle with high school teachers is rare, and I found it valuable," she said. "By scoring AP essays myself, I reassure myself that high-scoring Advanced Placement students do in fact understand psychology as well as college students who have taken my Introductory Psychology course, and I can assure colleagues of the validity of the AP program."

According to Coté, the group of readers included textbook authors, teaching-award winners, and even one of her college professors from 20 years ago. For a week, the group spent every day grading essays and every evening in professional development or meeting new friends and sharing teaching tips.

The AP Program, sponsored by the College Board, each year gives more than one million capable high school students an opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses and examinations and, based on their exam performances, they can receive credit and/or advanced placement when entering college.

Approximately 2.1 million examinations in 19 disciplines were evaluated by more than 7,500 readers from universities and high schools. Representing many of the finest academic institutions in the world, these men and women are some of the best high school and college educators in the United States and abroad.

Coté, who will be celebrating her



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Nathalie Coté, a professor at Belmont Abbey College, was selected this summer to participate in the annual reading and scoring of the College Board's AP Examinations in Psychology.

eight year teaching at the Abbey, earned her doctorate in cognitive studies at Vanderbilt University, studying how people build mental representations based on what they read. Although she finds research interesting, she said teaching is even better.

Belmont Abbey College, ranked one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report, is home to students from more than 34 states and 17 countries. The campus consists of the college, the monastery and the Abbey Basilica.

Founded in 1876, the college celebrates its heritage and is inspired by the Benedictine monastic tradition. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the college and Abbey Basilica greet thousands of visitors each year.

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- * Friday, 7:30 pm - Keynote: Vatican II Today: Forty Years Later
Reverend Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M. Cap., Ph.D., Executive Director, Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- * Saturday, 9 am - Christian Anthropology and Contemporary Psychological Studies
- * Saturday, 10:30 am - Lumen Gentium: The Once and Future Constitution
- * Saturday, 1:30 pm - Dei Verbum: Sacred Scripture since Vatican II
- * Saturday, 3:00 pm - Dignitatus Humanae: Religious Liberty and American Foreign Policy

Saturday, 6:30 pm - Cardinal Wright Award Dinner

Cardinal Wright Award to Gerard V. Bradley, J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School
Cardinal O'Boyle Award to Helen Hull Hitchcock, President, Women for Faith and Family, and Editor, Adoremus Bulletin

- * Sunday, 8:30 am - Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D., Bishop of Charlotte
- * Sunday, 9:45 am - Unitatis Redintegratio: Providential Turn or Historic Mistake?



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Our sprawling, picturesque campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is just 15 minutes from Charlotte, offering our students numerous internship opportunities and career placement.

Our 15:1 student-faculty ratio guarantees you the opportunity for one-on-one mentoring and a personal relationship with your professor. With over 80% of our faculty holding doctorate degrees, you benefit from their high level of experience, expertise, and dedication.

We believe in development of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. In addition to our outstanding academic offerings, students are encouraged to participate in a wide array of clubs and activities, including Division II athletics, theatre, student publications, and study abroad. Belmont Abbey College invests in the personal growth of its students.

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Revival of the Spirit 2005



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A man is visibly moved while listening to Father James Goode preach about healing during the annual tent revival Aug. 13.

Catholics come together for annual tent revival

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — On a hot, humid August night, a few hundred Catholics gathered at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, eager to have their spirits revived and their eyes opened to the wondrous love of Jesus Christ.

The sixth annual "Revival of the Spirit" tent revival, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, was once again an uplifting experience for those who attended the week-end-long celebration Aug. 12-14.

The revival, this year themed "Christ in my life, all the days of my life," was designed to be reminiscent of the early days of outdoor preaching and was an opportunity to publicly worship in the spirit of the black church.

Franciscan Father James Goode preached fiery sermons during the Friday and Saturday evening services. He is a member of the Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception and the president of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. When Father Goode was ordained in May 1972, he was the

first black priest from the city of Roanoke, Va.

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, was the celebrant and homilist of the closing Mass on Sunday.

The gospel reading for the Saturday service was the parable from the Gospel of John in which Jesus heals the blind man. After he was healed, the man not only regained his vision, he also "saw" who Jesus was — the Son of Man.

The man's blindness was not the result of his parents' sin, nor his own, but rather he had been born blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him" when he was healed, Father Goode said.

"All of us were born with some kind of affliction, some kind of setback ... so that God's work will be revealed in us," he said.

Father Goode said Jesus teaches us there are many ways we can be blind,

such as spiritually or morally. Through God's healing power, we can regain our "sight."

As part of the healing service, Father Goode invited anyone in need of healing — physical, emotional or spiritual — to come forward for a special prayer. The front of the church and middle aisle quickly filled with revivalists.

"As a people of faith ... we must pick each other up if we are fallen, and we must comfort one another," said Father Goode. "We must care for one another and carry one another, because this is a part of our sacred tradition."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the AAAM, call (704) 370-3339 for go online at www.charlottediocese.org/aaam.html.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

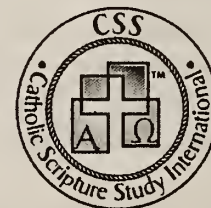
Even the youngest parishioners were captivated by Father Goode's preaching at the tent revival Aug. 13.

Ever wondered what the Church teaches about "end times"?

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Plus, the Revelation study includes a five-lesson supplement series on Carl E. Olson's book "Will Catholics Be 'Left Behind'?" This study will examine the false notion of a secret "rapture" promoted in the best-selling "Left Behind" books. Join us as we learn what the Church teaches about the end times. This supplement series recently aired on EWTN.

Classes are open to all and begin September 14 (going through May) at Charlotte's St. Vincent de Paul Church on Park Road. Both morning and evening classes are available:

Wednesdays 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

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Many diocesan parishes are hosting CSS classes this fall. To find one near you, visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com, click on "Find a Class" and search NC.

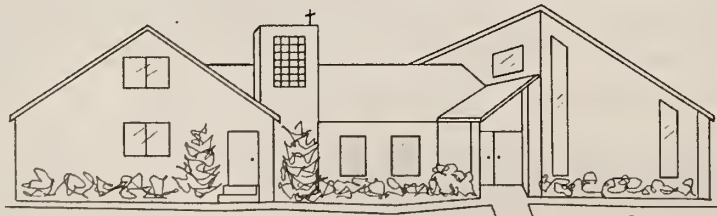
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Tuesday, August 30: 10 am - Mass with Bishop Peter J. Jugis, followed by a Eucharistic Procession and a luncheon reception

For information, call the church office: (828) 586-9496



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and his parents, Joseph and Peggy Jugis, study photographs of the bishop being baptized at St. Ann Church in 1956. The photos are on display as part of the church's 50th anniversary.

St. Ann Church celebrates 50 years

MILESTONE, from page 1

St. Ann Church still worship there and form the foundation of the parish family, serving in many of the church's ministries.

What St. Ann Church may have lacked in size over the years, it has more than made up for in prestige. Its founding pastor, Msgr. Michael J. Begley, became the first bishop for the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972. Another former pastor, Msgr. John McSweeney, is now pastor for St. Matthew Church, the largest in the diocese.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis was baptized by then-Msgr. Begley at St. Ann Church in 1957 and served as priest-in-residence during the summer of 1983.

"We are privileged to be part of a parish which has been at the center of the life of the Diocese of Charlotte since its beginning," said Father Conrad Hoover, pastor. "We are no longer among the largest, but we are filled with the spirit of compassion and hope."

At the conclusion of the Saturday evening Mass, Judeth Crowley, the late Bishop Begley's niece, told the congregation how her family had visited Charlotte during the construction of St. Ann Church. Crowley came to Charlotte from her home in Warwick, R.I., for the anniversary celebration.

"I'm delighted to see how the church has flourished in 50 years," she said.

Soon, St. Ann Church will flourish even more. A capital campaign is underway for a long-awaited renovation of the existing church building. The parish hopes to have a new façade and greatly refurbished interior completed in time for Christmas 2006.

DID YOU KNOW?

* Bishop Michael J. Begley, the Diocese of Charlotte's first bishop, was the first pastor of St. Ann Church, 1955-1966.

* St. Ann Church was named to honor then-Msgr. Begley's mother.

* Bishop Peter J. Jugis was baptized by then-Msgr. Begley in 1957.

A TIMELINE OF ST. ANN CHURCH

Aug. 15, 1955 — St. Ann Church was established with the purchase of the corner property on Park Road and Hillside Avenue. Parishioners joined in the celebration of weekend Masses in the Park Road School auditorium.

September 1956 — Original school building completed and dedicated. The celebration of parish Masses moved upstairs over the school's original auditorium-cafeteria space.

1960 — Completion of current church structure.

1993 — Parish Activity Center completed and dedicated.

2003 — Parish Activity Center rededicated as the Msgr. Allen Center.

Spring 2005 — Capital campaign commences to finance major renovation of existing worship space.

Aug. 13-14, 2005 — Parish celebrates 50th anniversary.

You're Invited! to Room At The Inn's Eleventh Annual Banquet "No Greater Gift"



Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 13, 2005

Featured Speaker
Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director of "Priests For Life"
www.priestsforlife.org

Registration/Reception: 5:30pm
Seating for Dinner: 6:40pm

Reservations are free, but required.

To make your reservation or to host a table of eight, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@carolina.rr.com by September 30th.

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a pro-life Catholic maternity home providing an alternative to abortion for single, pregnant women.

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PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Frank Gulli, one of the original members of St. Ann Church when it was established in 1955, talks with Father Joseph Dinh, parochial vicar, following Mass Aug. 13.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

In sixth book, Harry Potter is growing up

REVIEWED BY JEAN GONZALEZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Harry Potter is growing up.

While his personal experiences continue to shape his moral judgment, Harry greatly appreciates the values of trust, loyalty, friendship, free will and, above all, love in his life. And judging by the outcome of J.K. Rowling's latest (and sixth) book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," he will need those values to continue his fight against the Dark Lord, Voldemort.

In Rowling's 2003 installment of the magical series — Book 5, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" — Harry was 15 and an angry young man, a typical teenager who seemed a little gawky, a little self-absorbed and full of angst. But by the end of the book readers saw a glimmer of change within Potter's attitude — a loving and generous spark that carried over to Book 6.

Now 16, Potter displays his budding maturity in his insights about his life, his friendships and his loyalty to his mentors.

Early in the book he ponders how his life would be different if Voldemort had gone after another family and not his own. In the middle of the book, he considers how dating can change friendships.

And throughout the novel he weighs his physical, mental and emotional strength and his need for a loved one to protect him.

There are critics of the Potter series who believe Rowling's novels and characters offer an invitation to study and participate in magic. There are others who recognize Christian values, and even biblical symbolism.

The Potter books are devoid of any religious references, much like J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" tril-

ogy. But that is not to say there is no respect for Judeo-Christian values.

The prominent lesson Professor Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, tries to impart to his pupil, Harry, is simply: Love makes all the difference in the world. Respect, understanding, compassion, loyalty, courage, strength and sacrifice — all should be rooted in love.

Book 6 also concentrates on promises and the issue of free will versus fulfillment of a prophecy (particularly the prophecy revealed in Book 5). Dumbledore reminds Harry that his own moral judgment, again rooted in love, should guide his life decisions.

That could be a powerful life lesson for teens in which peer pressure or indecent media messages might serve as their own "prophecy" or "destiny."

Rowling has a gifted way of writing for Harry, as each book's structure truly reflects Harry's age. While Book 1, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," is a good fit for 11-year-old readers, this book fits best for older teen readers.

Adults will enjoy this book as well. Although it lags a bit in the middle where there is a lot of "snogging" — or, as Americans would say, "smooching" — among the teens, it is a tight and enjoyable read and a standout in the series.

And what about the half-blood prince? Adults, teens and preteens who were waiting for the midnight release of the book at a local Barnes and Noble had many theories about the prince and the book's plot. Of the many I overheard, none of them — including my own — were correct.

Gonzalez is projects editor at The Florida Catholic in Orlando, Fla.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 28, 2005

Aug. 28, Twenty-second
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
- 2) Romans 12:1-2
- 3) Matthew 16:21-27

God's love, compassion knows no end

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

One of the most compelling scenes from "A Man for All Seasons," a movie about the life and death of St. Thomas More, focuses on an encounter between More and his protegee, Richard Rich.

The young lawyer has just betrayed his mentor in exchange for appointment as attorney general of Wales. Largely on the basis of his ambitious friend's false testimony, More is hauled off to prison in preparation for beheading.

When they meet face to face, More

looks on his accuser and, with Christ's question from this Sunday's Gospel in mind, says sadly, "Why Richard, it profits a man nothing to give his soul for the whole world. But for Wales?"

When viewers watch this scene, we shake our heads in dismay at the folly of the compromise Rich has made. It seems so clearly to have been a fool's bargain: his integrity and the life of a loving friend in exchange for a relatively minor post in provincial government.

While most of us will never be put into such dramatic circumstances as these, the questions rise up from this Gospel: For what are we spending our lives? An acquisitive, image-driven culture? A "might-makes-right" approach to family life or patriotism? An overdeveloped need to be well thought of by others?

These and other manifestations of our tragic human gullibility about what's really important make clear how powerfully we are attracted to the illusion of control; how much, like Peter in the Gospel, we prefer our version of reality to God's. The bad news is that we fall for it over and over and over again.

The good news is that God's desire to draw us into communion with him — to give us blessings and happiness far deeper, more satisfying and more lasting than even our wildest imaginings — never runs out.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 21-27

Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 22:15, 19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20; **Monday (Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5, 8-10, Matthew 23:13-22; **Tuesday (St. Rose of Lima)**, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 23:23-26; **Wednesday (St. Bartholomew)**, Revelation 21:9-14, John 1:45-51; **Thursday (St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz)**, 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday (St. Monica)**, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, Matthew 25:14-30.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 3

Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27; **Monday (Martyrdom of John the Baptist)**, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Mark 6:17-29; **Tuesday**, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday**, Colossians 1:1-8, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday**, Colossians 1:9-14, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday**, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday (St. Gregory the Great)**, Colossians 1:21-23, Luke 6:1-5.

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From tragedy, triumph

Singer feels his career success has been guided by faith

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Daniel Rodriguez, the classical singer who gained fame for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at New York Yankees games after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on New York City, is enjoying a successful career.

But that career, in his view, "has been guided more than anything I've ever done."

Rodriguez has released a new album of sacred and spiritual songs, called "In the Presence." It includes hymns he sang at church such as "Joyful, Joyful," "Amazing Grace" and both English and Spanish versions of "Nearer My God to Thee."

The Spanish-language version, he said, is "the one I've sung the most" over the years in church.

It also includes such classical pieces as "Ave Maria" plus "Panis Angelicus" and "Pie Jesu," duets with fellow Catholic singer Lea Salonga, and the contemporary classic "On Eagle's Wings."

"My life has always been based on my faith," hence the choice of sacred music for a new collection, Rodriguez told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from New York.

"My life has always been a series of happy coincidences, being at the right place at the right time," he added, "and having the faith to say, 'This is where I'm supposed to be.'"

Out of the tragedy of the terror attacks on New York, he noted, came the opportunity to sing the national anthem while a nationwide audience was watching the Yankees in the 2001 baseball playoffs and World Series. From that exposure came the chance to record a CD, "The Spirit of America," and the opportunity to study with famed tenor Placido Domingo.

Because of the comparisons made between Rodriguez and another classical balladeer, Mario Lanza, Rodriguez was able to record a CD, "From the Heart," that evoked Lanza's memory, if not quite his style. And the riches that came with fame permitted Rodriguez to leave his job as a New York City police officer and buy a house in Florida for his mother.

"In the Presence," as he sees it, is a chance to make a return for the gifts bestowed upon him. Still, it was not the easiest task.

The arranger for three songs on the album, Johnnie Carl, committed suicide a week before Christmas inside the Crystal Cathedral in Anaheim, Calif., where he worked as one of its music directors. Rodriguez's aunt, Concepcion Padilla, "who was central to my religious upbringing," he said, also died during the recording of the album.

Rodriguez dedicated "In the Presence" to them.

"She was a devout Christian," Rodriguez said of his aunt. "She got to hear the album, the rough mixes, the day before she passed."

During his studies with Domingo, Rodriguez said he learned that "singing



CNS PHOTO

This is the cover to "In the Presence," a new CD by Daniel Rodriguez. A former New York City police officer, Rodriguez turned to song following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

with an operatic voice does not necessarily make you an opera singer."

He told the story of an opera singer who sang a piece at a recital, and the audience jumped up and cried, "Sing it again! Sing it again!" The singer sang the song a second time, after which the crowd pleaded once more, "Sing it again! Sing it again!"

Taken aback, the singer asked in astonishment, "How many times do you want me to sing this?" The crowd replied, "Until you get it right!"

Prior to his singing at Yankees games, Rodriguez said he considered himself "an equal opportunity New York fan," partial to both the Yankees and the Mets. He recounted what he called "a 'Seinfeld' episode moment" when he sang before a Yankees-Mets interleague game at Yankee Stadium in early 2001. His mother, "a huge Mets fan," was watching her son perform.

After his rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," Rodriguez and his mother went to their assigned seats only to find others sitting there. Rather than roust them, Rodriguez asked to be shown some unoccupied seats. Instead, he and his mother were taken to Yankees owner George Steinbrenner's suite.

"We got to Steinbrenner's box, and my mom takes off her jacket, and she's got on this big Mets T-shirt," Rodriguez recalled. "Thank God Steinbrenner wasn't there."

"Whenever the Mets would score or have a rally, my mom would stand up and wave her arms and yell, 'Go Mets!'" he said. "I'd have to get up and tell her, 'Mom, please, there are other people trying to enjoy the game.'"

Breaking ground



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the location for the new St. Joan of Arc Church in Enka-Candler, several miles from the current church in Asheville, during a groundbreaking ceremony July 31. After the ceremony, a picnic lunch was held on the property. Construction on the new church is expected to begin in September 2005 and to be completed in fall 2006. Pictured are (from left): Father John Pagel, pastor; Bishop Jugis; and Deacon Rudy Triana, permanent deacon.

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A GROWING ORDER

Two profess to Secular Franciscan Order

CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity recently received the profession of two candidates in the Secular Franciscan Order.

Marie Cordero and Kathleen Zuckerman, both parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, completed two-and-a-half years of discernment and study through the order's formation program before making their rite of profession during a Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Aug. 6.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Jude Duffy, pastor and the fraternity's spiritual director, celebrated the Mass.

The Secular Franciscan Order, formerly known as the Third Order of St. Francis, is an official order within the Catholic Church, and was established by St. Francis of Assisi early in

the 13th century.

Members do not live in community; however, members gather together in fraternity on a regular basis. By profession, they promise to follow a rule of life approved and confirmed by Pope Paul VI in June of 1978.

Currently, there are five inquirers in formation for the fraternity, which gathers the first Sunday of each month, 2-4 p.m., at Our Lady of Consolation Church for prayer, socials, ongoing formation and business.

WANT MORE INFO?

If anyone feels called to the Secular Franciscan way of life, contact Tom O'Loughlin, SFO, at (704) 947-7235 or Jenny Taylor Johnson at (704) 319-5343.

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Send resume and references to: **Rev. James L. LeBlanc, Pastor,**
St. Mary Help of Christians Church, PO Box 438, Aiken, SC 29802.

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Friday Evening Special Events: 6 pm — Mass with Bishop Jugis; 7:30 pm — Catholic Music Through The Ages: Area musicians and choirs present a historical survey of Catholic music.

Adoration — Confession — Fellowship

Friday Evening, September 9

6:00 Mass/Bishop Jugis
7:00 Catholic musicians and choirs *To The Glory of God: Catholic Music Through the Ages*

Saturday, September 10

7:45 Mass
8:30 Regina Doman *The Genius of Catholic Womanhood*
9:15 Coffee/Doughnuts
9:45 Workshop Session #1
Father Kauth *Why We Have Sin: A Talk for Young People*
Father Winslow *The Moral Life*
Father Reid *The Importance of Beauty in Living a Catholic Life*

10:45 Workshop Session #2
Father Williams *Puritanism and the Faith*
Father Gober *Selected topics*
Regina Doman *Being Young and Catholic*
Adam Schwartz *Malcolm Muggeridge and the Culture of Death*

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Scott Richert *Pray Without Ceasing: Reintegrating the Home and the Parish*

1:45 Workshop Session #3
Tom Ascik *Religious Faith and the Founders*
Fr. Arnsperger and others *Teen Panel*
Pat Glass *Culture of Life v. Culture of Death: Oliver de Vinck and Terry Schiavo*
Patrick Keats *The Lord's Mysterious Ways: Celebrity Conversion Stories From Gary Cooper to Bob Hope*

2:45 Workshop Session #4
Scott Richert *Islam in America: Lessons for Christians*
Jeff Minick *The End Time: A Catholic Looks at Death and Dying*
Jennifer Gordon *Pitfalls for Catholic Teens: Observations of a Catholic High School Teacher*

3:45 Final remarks/
Closing prayer

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Celebrating faith and heritage

Hibernians gather for convention in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Hibernians from across the Southeast recently gathered in Charlotte for their third biannual convention.

Around 125 members of Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians from divisions in North and South Carolina, Virginia and Florida attended the event held at the Hilton Charlotte University Place hotel July 23-25.

The AOH, founded in New York in 1836, describes itself as the oldest lay Catholic organization in the United States and is comprised of Catholic men of Irish birth or descent. The LAOH, comprised of Catholic women of Irish decent, was founded in Omaha, Neb., in 1884 as the Daughters of Erin. The group officially became the LAOH in 1984.

During the Charlotte convention, members elected new state officers to two-year terms and celebrated their

Irish-American and Catholic heritage with live Irish music, Irish dancing and Mass celebrated by Oratorian Father Joe Pearse, a member of the Rock Hill Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C., and chaplain of the AOH and LAOH in North Carolina.

The AOH has divisions in Charlotte, Greensboro and Raleigh. The LAOH has divisions in Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington and Raleigh.

The Hibernians are active throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, providing assistance to Catholic schools, parishes and other Catholic organizations.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the AOH, visit www.aoh.com.

To learn more about the LAOH, visit www.ladiesaoh.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians elected new state officers during the Hibernians' state convention in Charlotte July 23-25. Pictured are (from left): Margaret Shannon of Charlotte, past president; Connie McAnaney of Wilmington, president; Alice Schmidt of Greensboro, vice president; Maureen Quinn of Wilmington, secretary; Julie Bryne of Charlotte, treasurer; Susan Ryan of Raleigh, Catholic action; and Mary Driscoll of Wilmington, missions and charities.



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Joan Ricci Hurst of Winston-Salem has trained with Contemplative Outreach and helps guide these sessions.

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Fr. Patrick Collins is a published author, preacher, musician and university professor. He leads retreats and workshops worldwide, especially on the life and legacy of Thomas Merton, Trappist mystic.

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

We don't know Roe

Most Americans don't understand details of case

The Supreme Court confirmation battle is underway, and the nominee's views about Roe v. Wade have already been the subject of controversy.

The strategy of abortion supporters in the Senate and among interest groups will be to present Roe as mainstream and to label those who oppose it as extreme. Some will assert that a Supreme Court justice who opposes Roe is not qualified to serve on the court.

Of course, this conveniently ignores the fact that the current chief justice of the United States was one of the two dissenting votes in the 7-2 Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. Moreover, the plaintiff, "Jane Roe" (Norma McCorvey) now rejects the decision and works to reverse it. (I received her into the Catholic Church in 1998.)

Another significant fact is that the American people have never supported the Roe v. Wade policy of legal abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Polling on abortion consistently reveals that the majority of Americans support the legality of the procedure in cases of rape, incest or threats to the mother's life and physical health, but that support quickly declines below the majority when other reasons are brought forward. (Several years ago, Gallup did an excellent overview of multiple polls of Americans on abortion since Roe.)

Because abortions for physical health, rape and incest constitute a minuscule fraction of the procedures, it is true to say that most Americans oppose most abortions.

An analysis of polling questions done by Professor Raymond Adamek shows that most questions about Roe v. Wade misrepresent the decision. The questions state that Roe allowed abortion during the first three months of pregnancy. This

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



is the truth, but not the whole truth.

Here are the words of the Roe vs. Wade decision:

"(a) For the stage prior to approximately the end of the first trimester, the abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman's attending physician.

"(b) For the stage subsequent to approximately the end of the first trimester, the State, in promoting its interest in the health of the mother, may, if it chooses, regulate the abortion procedure in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health.

"(c) For the stage subsequent to viability the State, in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life, may, if it chooses, regulate, and even proscribe, abortion except where necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother" [410 U.S. 113, 114].

As the University of Detroit Law Review pointed out, "The Supreme Court's decisions ... allowed abortion on demand throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy" (Paul B. Linton, Enforcement of State Abortion Statutes after Roe: A State-by-State Analysis, Vol. 67, Issue 2, Winter 1990).

Now is a perfect moment for educating the public about what Roe v. Wade really said. When they find out, they will have a new understanding about who the real "extremists" are in the Supreme Court battle.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

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Pope says Christians must acknowledge dependence on God

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Like a small child still totally dependent on his mother, but old enough to recognize his need, Christians must acknowledge their dependence on God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Holding his weekly general audience Aug. 10 at the Vatican, the pope offered reflections on Psalm 131's opening verses, which reject pride in one's self-sufficiency.

Instead, the psalm presents a proper attitude toward God as being "like a weaned child," still and quiet on the mother's lap.

The image of the mother and child, the pope said, is a "sign of the tender and maternal love of God."

The child in the psalm "is tied to his mother with a very personal and intimate relationship, not merely one of physical contact or because of the need for food," the pope said. "It is a more conscious bond, even though it is immediate and spontaneous.

"This is the ideal parable of true spiritual childhood, of abandoning one-

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



self to God, not in a blind or automatic way, but serenely and with responsibility," he said.

The psalmist contrasts his dependence with the pride and conceit of those who busy themselves with the "great things" of this world, the pope said.

Humble trust in God, Pope Benedict said, leads to "security, life and peace, and it extends from the present to the future, now and forever."

The Vatican estimated about 6,000 people attended the audience. Many were youths, sporting World Youth Day shirts or hats, who stopped at the Vatican on their way to Cologne, Germany, for the celebration of World Youth Day Aug. 16-21.

Making good marriages great

Maybe I've just watched too many MGM musicals in my life, but I think most marriages are good.

I believe that most people enter marriage wanting the best for their spouses and themselves. They want their love to last forever. They hope life won't be too hard and that they too can have the American dream of children, a home and a happy life.

These are good things to which to aspire. The Catholic Church has similar desires for married couples but it goes further — the church wants good marriages to become great marriages.

How can a good marriage become great? Our faith suggests how — by knowing and loving God, and by living in a way that reflects that relationship. As Christians, the starting point for all human relationships is our relationship with God. It is only in light of that love that we can love the other person fully.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to love as Christ loves — faithfully, generously and permanently. That's a huge calling, but grace makes it possible.

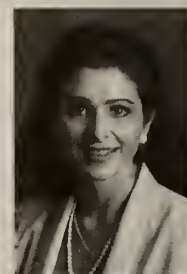
This common Christian vocation to love God and neighbor takes on a unique focus in the lives of married couples. Its uniqueness is related to God's original gift to humanity: God blessed man and woman to be "no longer two but one flesh," and said, "Be fruitful and multiply."

The couple's shared vocation is embodied in the unitive and procreative nature of marital sexuality. To make a good Christian marriage great, these two aspects of marital sexuality must be understood, nurtured and lived.

The marriage bond is formed by a free act of the will, and nurtured by selfless love. That means putting your spouse's needs before your own. If both

Life Issues Forum

THERESA NOTARE
GUEST COLUMNIST



spouses strive to be mindful of each other, a real communion of persons can be built. Not "me," but "we" can become second nature and their bond will become strong enough to blossom into a greater love for all human life.

The church teaches that marriage involves a radical act of giving. This is nowhere more clear than in the marital embrace. Husband and wife give all of themselves to each other — body, mind and soul.

Pope John Paul II has said that "nothing that is part of themselves can be excluded from this gift." Their fertility, their power to create a new person to love in union with each other, is part of that gift.

Here lies the reason why contraception is wrong — it breaks that "inseparable connection" between the two meanings of the conjugal act, the unitive and the procreative (Humanae Vitae, No. 12). Doing something that is against what God designed us for can only harm us.

Living your marriage according to God's design can only make you happy. It can make your good marriage great.

Theresa Notare is assistant director of the Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning, Pro-Life Secretariat, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Protect human life at all stages

Embryonic stem-cell research immoral, deadly

Support for the practice of destroying human embryos for stem cell research received an endorsement recently from *The Charlotte Observer*, as it congratulated Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee on his recent change of mind: "Right Move by Frist," Aug. 2. The editorial, however, overlooked an important moral dimension of this critical issue, which must be addressed.

The subhead of the editorial captured the essence of Sen. Frist's reasoning: "It's better for embryos to go to research, not down the drain." The truth is that neither option is better: neither discarding the embryos, nor consigning them to research. Both options are equally immoral. In both instances, an innocent human life is destroyed.

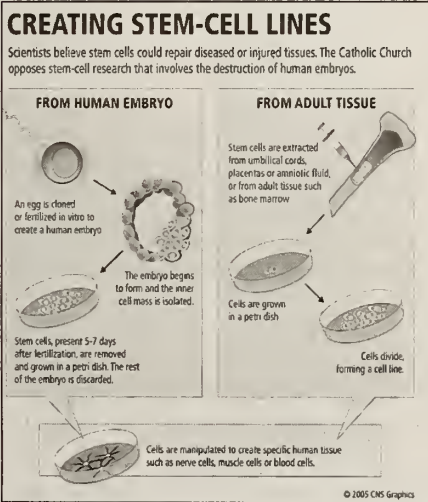
Every human life starts out as an embryo. The genetic makeup of the person is already given at conception. What remains is a continuum of development between the embryo stage and a fully formed adult.

All along the way, however, it is the same human person who is in the process of maturing. Whether the human being is called an embryo, fetus, child, teenager or adult — depending on his stage of development — each is the same creation of God, and therefore enjoys an inviolable right to life.

The human embryo is not an object

of experimentation, but a living human being. Pope John Paul II, in his 1995 encyclical on "The Value and Inviolability of Human Life," saw, in the familiar question that God put to Cain after he killed his brother Abel, an appropriate question for today's society: "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground." (Genesis 4:10)

John Paul II wrote: "The use of human embryos or fetuses as objects of experimentation constitutes a crime against their dignity as human beings who have a right to the same respect



From the Bishop

BISHOP
PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF
CHARLOTTE



owed to a child once born, just as to every person." (n. 63).

The *Observer* editorial concludes with a call to action: "Science and government must work together to create ethical and legal guidelines for this research." Yes, our society will have a dialogue on the important topic of stem cell research. But the viewpoint of science and the viewpoint of government are not enough. The moral question of the illicitness of taking innocent human life must also be addressed. No discussion will be valid or acceptable without a consideration of this moral perspective.

Some polls may indicate that most Americans are in favor of embryonic stem cell research. But the moral question remains: Is there ever any justifiable reason to destroy an innocent human life, at any stage of that individual's life?

Accepting our new immigrant brothers and sisters

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



Bishop William Houck, president of the Catholic Church Extension Society, which serves mission dioceses, wrote in the July edition of *Extension Magazine*:

"Do you ever wonder why Jesus did not tell his disciples to go and make disciples of some nations rather than go and make disciples of all nations? Do you think we sometimes have the mentality or even act as though Jesus said, 'Go and take care of your own group of folks'?"

"We are challenged in our time with the unprecedented influx of newcomers from various Hispanic countries. Some of us still find it difficult to accept these new cultures genuinely into our lives."

As I read this I wondered how many of us ever ponder the profound meaning of the word "accept." The word's Latin root means "to take to yourself," which creates the image of drawing a person into your arms as in an embrace.

Along this same line of thinking, accepting a person creates a solidarity with that person, which Pope John Paul II described as being one with another because we share the same humanity. To be human is to feel the humanity of another as our own.

To understand the ramifications of the pope's idea of "solidarity," allow me to use a personal example.

"Acceptance" and "solidarity": They imply having a heart that can easily be crushed upon seeing something inhuman happen to another person.

If, as Bishop Houck suggests, we are to accept the new influx of Hispanics to the United States, the first place to start is with our heart.

Many of our grandparents and great-grandparents came from other countries and sacrificed their lives for us. Most of those grandparents were laborers, much like the many Hispanic laborers we see today.

"Acceptance" means seeing these Hispanic laborers as our own sacrificing grandparents, who were responsible for the quality of life and moral principles we enjoy.

In the same magazine, Msgr. Virgil Elizondo, a noted writer on social justice, gave yet another profound insight into "acceptance." He wrote: "There's a beauty in seeing differences not as divisive, but as enriching and life-giving. ... If we do that I think we can give an example to the world."

To paraphrase Msgr. Elizondo, Hispanic immigrants possess rich gifts of humanity that add to our own humanity. The more we embrace and accept these people, the more we become a newer and fuller humanity.

How to encourage prayers and Masses for the dead

Q. I am a priest, 76 years old, and would like your comment on what I see as a decline in giving offerings for Masses for the dead. The one funeral Mass, of course, has eternal and infinite value, but my personal opinion is that souls can give merits of additional Masses to whomever he or she wishes. Is that bad theology?

Some, instead of Masses, just give a few bucks to their favorite charity. Certainly missionaries could use the Mass stipends for deceased family members and friends. Or is that idea outdated?

How can we encourage continued prayers and Masses for the dead? (Maryland)

A. I've heard other priests make similar comments, but I have to say that hasn't been my usual pastoral experience. In the past, some people have held what are, in my opinion, rather dubious attitudes about this.

One man asked me years ago how to bequeath \$5,000 for Masses for himself after he died. I suggested he might leave part of that for education of a priest, who would remember him at Mass for years; the man obviously didn't buy the idea.

I have seen a more balanced Catholic approach to leaving or giving money for Masses, recognizing that other corporal and spiritual works of mercy are also important and valid, and perhaps less self-

centered forms of prayer for the living and dead. Maybe that explains in part the "favorite charity" idea you mention.

A valuable insight for us Catholics is the centuries-old practice of the church, which prays constantly and in many ways for those who have died. The Eucharistic Prayer in every Mass is a good example.

At least two excellent reasons exist for this Christian tradition that relate to your concerns. First, prayers for the dead, as all our prayers, go to a God who has no beginning or end; for God there is no past or future. All, from the beginning of time to the end of the world, is one eternally present moment for him.

Whenever we pray, therefore, recognizing the eternal and universal reach of God's providence, our prayers are not limited by time; they extend back to the beginning of an individual's life, through to the end and into eternity.

This is not speculation. It follows from what we believe about God. Prayers we offer years after a person's death can be "applied" by God to when that person was still alive. This understanding, clumsy as human words always are when dealing with things of God, is reflected often in the church's liturgies and prayers for the deceased.

Second, and more important, our prayers for loved ones who have died are also, in fact primarily, prayers of thanks,

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

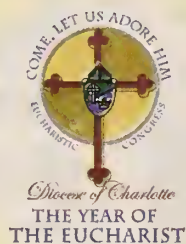


praising God for his unfailing goodness, particularly to that person and to all others who were blessed by his or her life. It is a wonderful and reverent way of acknowledging God's graciousness and wisdom, shown in our care and service of one another.

For both these reasons, and there are more, our continued prayers for and with those who have gone before us make excellent psychological and spiritual common sense. In my experience, people of faith easily pick up on them if we help them understand what they are doing.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about cremation and other funeral customs is available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.



DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2005

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER — COLLEGE ST. & STONEWALL

FRIDAY, 7 PM: SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

SATURDAY, 8 AM: EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

CONGRESS SPEAKERS



Bishop William Curlin - Eucharistic Holy Hour Homily -- Bishop Curlin is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte.



Bishop Peter Jugis - "Welcome" -- Bishop Jugis is the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

General Track



James Caviezel - Actor; best known for his stunning performance as Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ." His testimony about his Catholic faith is as riveting as any of his screen performances.

Kerri Caviezel - wife of the well-known actor and a dynamic speaker in her own right



Scott Hahn - "The Lamb's Supper" -- Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He is well known, both nationally and internationally, for inspiring audiences as he explores topics relating Scripture to our Catholic faith.



Johnnette Benkovic - "In His Eucharistic Heart" -- Ms. Benkovic is the founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International, Inc., a Catholic evangelization apostolate with worldwide outreaches in television, radio, print and Internet communications.



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio - "Feast of Faith" -- Dr. D'Ambrosio is a specialist in the interpretation of sacred Scripture and tradition. His teaching covers a broad range of subjects from historical, dogmatic, and sacramental theology to evangelization. (also will speak in Hispanic Track)



Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa - "Stay With Us" -- Fr. Cantalamessa was appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II and continues to serve as official "Homilist to the Papal Household." (also will speak in Hispanic Track)

Hispanic Track



Dr. Dora Tobar - "Hostias Viva Para Un Mundo Con Hambre" -- Dr. Tobar is a professor of theology at Catholic University of America who specializes in leading spiritual retreats around the nation.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (see topic above)

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa (see topic above)

Teen Track



Fr. Francis Mary Stone, M.F.V.A. - "The Extreme Make-Over: Putting on the Armor of Christ" -- Fr. Stone, who appears frequently on EWTN, is a down-to-earth former financier and jock turned priest who leads young people to Christ.



Fr. Leo Patalinghug, S.T.L. - "Spiritual Combat" -- Fr. Patalinghug entertains and inspires young people with break-dancing and karate, which he compares to a spiritual battle. His message: "God is calling every one of you to do something."



Fr. Antoine Thomas - "Why Stay With Jesus?" -- Fr. Thomas understands how youth can embrace and be enriched by spending time with the Blessed Sacrament in schools and parishes; he also shares what adults can do to encourage the practice.



Charlie Aeschliman - "Basketball and Eucharistic Strength" -- Mr. Aeschliman is a former elite Navy S.E.A.L. and Basketball Handling Champion who presents a unique, fast-paced and fun character building talk.

Children's Track (Kindergarten through fifth grade)



Ken Doran - "Stories of Hope: How God Works Wonders!" -- A dynamic and creative teacher, Ken's approach is age-appropriate and fun for all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

Free and open to all www.GoEucharist.com

Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte



Established Jan. 12, 1972
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Sacred music concert at
congress; Mystery of the
Mass, Part 23

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No. 40



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis incenses the altar during the rededication Mass of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine Aug. 19.

Haven in the hills

*St. Lucien Parish celebrates dedication of
refurbished, expanded church*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

SPRUCE PINE — A small church in the mountains recently celebrated a big achievement.

With months of renovation to the interior and exterior finally complete, Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the rededication Mass at St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine Aug. 19. The event drew Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, former pastors and other priests of the diocese.

"We've had a lot of

changes over the years, but never a complete transformation of the church," said Christiane Buchanan, a parishioner of 59 years and native of France. "This is a beautiful experience for us."

"We had a very nice church before Father (Christopher) Gober showed up," said parishioner Jeff Hofschulz. "Now we have a small church in the mountains capable of being a cathedral."

A new altar was installed and the sanctuary raised, walls were knocked out, the flat ceiling became vaulted with

wooden beams added and the entrance of the church was redesigned.

"The rite for rededication of a church says that in order to qualify for rededication there has to be a complete restoration of the interior of the church," said Bishop Jugis during his homily.

"Father Gober, with the help of your parishioners, you have accomplished ... a marvelous, complete restoration and enlargement of the inside

See HAVEN, page 5

'Business as Usual' for many retired priests

UPCOMING COLLECTION
TO BENEFIT PRIESTS'
RETIREMENTS

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — While many people look forward to retirement as an opportunity to play lots of golf, spend more time with the grandkids, even take a long-awaited African safari, for many priests their retirement years are "Business as Usual."

"Even in retirement, these priests are still an asset to the

See PRIESTS, page 9

HIGH NOTES

Sacred choral music to open Eucharistic Congress

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Heavenly voices will soon be wafting through uptown Charlotte.

A collection of sacred choral music will kick off the Eucharistic Congress on Friday night, Sept. 23. The congress, free and open to the public, will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 23-24.

"The selection will offer music from several eras of

See MUSIC, page 7

BACK TO THE BOOKS



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-graders at St. Michael School in Gastonia line up on the first day of school Aug. 22. More than 7,000 students had returned to 18 diocesan Catholic schools by Aug. 25.

Students return to growing, renovated Catholic schools

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — For students across the Diocese of Charlotte, it's that time of year again.

More than 7,000 students donned uniforms and back-

packs for the start of another year at the 18 diocesan Catholic schools by Aug. 25.

Orientation meetings were held over the summer for new school staff and an in-service

See SCHOOLS, page 12

Fiesta con Jesus

Renewal day celebrates Hispanic
faith, culture

| PAGE 4

World Youth Day

Tribulation, triumph unites
world's youths

| PAGE 6

Perspectives

Labor Day; end-of-life
directives; hurricane response

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SUSTAINING HOPE



CNS PHOTO BY PAULA DOYLE, THE TIDINGS

Linda and Kelly Hope look at bas-reliefs depicting milestones in their father's life in the Bob Hope Memorial Garden at the San Fernando Mission in Mission Hills, Calif., in July. Hope's wife, Dolores, chose the mission for her husband's burial place because of his love for the San Fernando Valley.

Bob Hope Memorial Garden opens at San Fernando Mission

MISSION HILLS, Calif. (CNS) — Two years to the day after legendary entertainer Bob Hope died, family members and friends attended a dedication July 27 of the Bob Hope Memorial Garden at the San Fernando Mission in Mission Hills, created as an inspirational final resting place for the beloved comedian.

Adjacent to the mission chapel and overlooking the cemetery, the English-style flower garden decorated with religious statues and meditation benches opened to the public two days later.

"For most of his hundred years on old planet Earth and for all of his public life, Bob lived in the San Fernando Valley," said San Fernando Mission director Msgr. Francis Weber during the dedication ceremony.

"On his many travels to the far corners of the world to entertain the nation's troops, his returning plane banked over the Old Mission as it made its way to Hollywood-Burbank (Airport)," Msgr. Weber added. "We welcome him home and rejoice that he will henceforth share his many memories with his friends and his fellow travelers."

The dedication ceremony and Mass, with Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony presiding, was the culmination of months of planning and construction

at the historic San Fernando Mission.

Hope's wife, Dolores, chose the mission for her husband's burial place because of his abiding love for the San Fernando Valley, where the couple raised four children and attended St. Charles Borromeo Church in North Hollywood.

The event drew two cardinals (including Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington), Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., and priests from across the country. Other guests included actor Mickey Rooney and Kathryn Crosby, Bing Crosby's widow.

Before entering the garden, visitors pass by the Our Lady of Hope statue, a replica of a famous 17th-century sculpture of Mary at the Basilica of Our Lady of Hope in Pontmain, France, which was a family favorite.

"The statue was very meaningful to my mother — our dad did bring a little bit of hope to many," said Linda Hope. To the right of the entrance gate is a work-in-progress memorial wall with bas-reliefs depicting important milestones in Bob Hope's life.

Dolores Hope's mother, Teresa Kelly DeFina, and the Hopes' deceased son, Anthony J. Hope, are currently interred in the garden, with additional places for other family members.

USCCB official lauds FDA decision on emergency contraception

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's decision Aug. 26 to keep Plan B, an emergency contraceptive also known as the morning-after pill, as a prescription-only drug was called "welcome news" by a U.S. bishops' pro-life official.

Barr Laboratories, the maker of Plan B, had petitioned the FDA to let the drug be sold over the counter (OTC).

"It is welcome news that the FDA seems to be taking seriously concerns about the impact on adolescents of making Plan B available over the counter," said Gail Quinn, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"Recent studies in California and Scotland had clear results; pregnancy and abortion rates were no different among women with immediate access to emergency contraceptives (ECs) and a control

group who had to request a prescription from a doctor," she said Aug. 29.

"Clearly claims of ECs' benefits to women are overstated at best, while their potentially lethal risk to human life at its earliest stages remains a grave concern," Quinn said.

In announcing the decision, FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said the FDA had to wrestle with, among other things, whether the prescription and OTC versions of the same drug could be marketed in a single package, whether age could be used as the only criterion to sell a drug over the counter, and how an age restriction would be enforced.

Crawford announced the start of a 60-day comment period on the matter.

"These regulatory and policy questions are too profound and cut across too many different products to be made behind closed doors," he said.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — As part of the Just Second Fridays speaker series, Dr. Jack Glaser will present "Bringing a Catholic Voice to Healthcare Reform" Sept. 9, 1-2 p.m., in the lower level (Atrium Room) of the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. JSF is sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, CSS and St. Peter Church. Sandwiches and drinks are provided or you can bring your own lunch. Visit for www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for further information about this presentation.

CHARLOTTE — A Blood Drive will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Sept. 11, 8:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. in the family room of the Parish Center. To register, call Ed Nenninger at (704) 366-6637.

CHARLOTTE — As a ministry to the hearing impaired, Vanessa Pappas will sign the *Liturgy of the Word* Sept. 11 during the 10 a.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 536-6520.

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery invites you beg God's mercy on our hurting world Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Also, we will celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. Both events take place at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

CHARLOTTE — The Arthritis Support Group will meet Sept. 13, 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the Ministry Center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Dr. John Babick will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Gail at

(704) 847-5280.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Cancer Support Ministry is open to cancer patients, their caregivers and cancer survivors. If you would like to share your experience in a faith-based setting and receive group support and encouragement, join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church Office lounge, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 or Bob Wilcocks at (704) 542-1541 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., will host a *Catholic Scripture Study* beginning Sept. 18. Classes will meet Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Kovacic Center. The study is based on the writings of Scott Hahn and will address the Gospel of John. Please register by calling Wendy Hood at (704) 393-1561.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalcs@charter.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The Widows Lunch Bunch, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope meets with Iraqi foreign minister, discusses constitution

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI met with Iraq's foreign minister on the day of the deadline for Iraqi political leaders to agree on a new constitution.

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari met with Pope Benedict Aug. 25 at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, and with the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, in the Vatican.

Discussions centered on the current situation in Iraq, including how the draft constitution, which was still awaiting approval by Iraq's National Assembly, would guarantee the freedom of religion.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, Vatican spokesman, said talks with the pope and at the Vatican "made particular reference to the text of the constitution" and "to the important subject of religious freedom."

Some church leaders in Iraq are

concerned the draft constitution's reference to Islam as the source of all laws for the country might translate into discrimination against Christians and other religious groups.

Father Benedettini said the talks among the pope, Cardinal Sodano and Zebari underlined the idea that the rebuilding of Iraq "must come about in an atmosphere of dialogue that involves all religious groups and various segments of society."

The same day, political leaders in Iraq were due to submit the final draft of a new constitution that would be voted on by the country's National Assembly and in a national referendum by mid-October.

Shiite and Kurd negotiators had agreed on a final draft, while Sunni representatives criticized provisions on federalism, which the Sunnis fear would lead to too much control by the Shiites in the South and the Kurds in the North.

Pope offers concern for Katrina's victims, prayers for relief workers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed his spiritual closeness and concern for all those affected by Hurricane Katrina in the United States, and he offered special prayers for those engaged in relief efforts.

He assured all those affected by what was considered the most destructive storm to hit the country in decades of "his closeness in prayer" and "divine blessings of strength and consolation."

In a telegram sent by the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the pope said he was "deeply saddened by the tragic consequences of the recent hurricane."

"The Holy Father commends the deceased to the loving mercy of almighty God, and upon their grieving families he

invokes divine blessings of strength and consolation," the telegram said.

Pope Benedict also offered special prayers for rescue workers "and all those involved in providing assistance to the victims of the disaster."

He "encouraged them to persevere in their efforts to bring relief and support," said the text.

While hundreds were feared dead, millions of people were in need of assistance — including some who remained stranded on rooftops — as widespread flooding and storms rendered homes uninhabitable, downed power lines and blocked major roads. Food and clean water were running low in the hardest hit areas of New Orleans, where 80 percent of the city remained under water, and in Mississippi and Alabama.

Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will host *Personal Foundation Program with Rosemary Santillo*, a professional life and business coach. The free sessions will take place Sept. 14 and 28 and Oct. 5 and 19. Attend all sessions or just come for one that sparks your interest. To register, call the faith formation office at (704) 664-7762 or e-mail dconklin@sainttherese.net. For more information about Rosemary Santillo and her programs, visit Coaching at Reflection Rock at www.reflectionrock.com.

MOORESVILLE — As part of the St. Therese Church *Guest Speaker Series*, Bill Martin will speak about Islam and Mohammed, including his background, beliefs and biases, Sept. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Family Room of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring

games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — *Respect Life* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles M. Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

New Orleans underwater



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS/U.S. COAST GUARD

Diocese collecting for Katrina relief

Hurricane Katrina has hit the Gulf Coast area of the United States. This disaster has created a situation beyond which the local communities and agencies can handle without outside assistance.

The Catholic community of the Diocese of Charlotte is responding to this need by collecting funds to be used in short- and long-term recovery efforts. If you wish to donate, please respond to parish initiatives by remitting contributions directly to your parish (clearly marked for the relief effort).

Alternatively, you may mail your donation to:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
Disaster Relief
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203-4003

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 4 — 11 a.m. Mass
Anniversary of the dedication
Cathedral of St. Patrick, Charlotte

Sept. 9 — 6 p.m. Mass
Triumph of the Cross Conference
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

September 11-12 USCCB Priestly Life and
Ministry Committee meeting
Washington, D.C.

Sept. 13 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting, Charlotte

CORRECTIONS — AUG. 19 ISSUE

The phone number for Judy Smith, director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte, was incorrect. The correct number is (704) 370-3320.

The phone number for the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry was incorrect. The correct number is (704) 370-3267.

Fiesta con Jesus

Renewal day celebrates Hispanic faith, culture in Diocese of Charlotte

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Hispanic Catholics recently were made to feel more a part of the spirit of the Catholic Church in North Carolina, thanks to the hard work of the diocese's Hispanic Ministry.

An estimated 4,000 Hispanic Catholics gathered at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart Aug. 13 for Fiesta con Jesus, the first such "renewal day" for Spanish-speaking Catholics.

"We wanted to reach out to the Hispanic community and lift up their morale," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director for diocesan Hispanic ministry. "There was a real spirit of celebration."

The components for the fiesta came from its name: faith, intercession, evangelization, sacraments, transformation and amor (love).

In addition to several presentations on spiritual themes, vendors sold handmade goods and Latin music was per-

formed throughout the day by a variety of local talent.

The day's events concluded with a Mass featuring Bishop Emeritus Agustín Alejo Román Rodríguez of Miami as homilist.

Sister Inkrott said many of the participants took advantage of the opportunity to go to confession with priests who spoke Spanish. Bishop Román, a native of Cuba, also participated in hearing confessions.

One participant said she was thankful to have Bishop Peter J. Jugis participate in the fiesta, because it was "like a statement of being accepted."

"It was a wonderful gathering of Hispanics," said Sister Inkrott. "They felt welcome, having Spanish-speaking priests and bishops involved with the event."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Feast day



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTT

Parishioners of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville celebrate the Aug. 10 feast day of St. Lawrence after Mass Aug. 15. Dinner and dessert was served. St. Lawrence was a deacon under Pope St. Sixtus II. Four days after the pope was put to death, St. Lawrence and four clerics suffered martyrdom, probably during the persecution of Emperor Valerian. The church built over St. Lawrence's tomb became one of the seven principal churches in Rome and a favorite place for Roman pilgrimages.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Hispanic Catholics prepare to present the gifts during Mass Aug. 13. The Mass was part of the Fiesta con Jesus, a renewal day that drew an estimated 4,000 Hispanics to the Charlotte Merchandise Mart.

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- * Friday, 7:30 pm - Keynote: Vatican II Today: Forty Years Later
Reverend Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M. Cap., Ph.D., Executive Director, Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

- * Saturday, 9 am - Christian Anthropology and Contemporary Psychological Studies
- * Saturday, 10:30 am - Lumen Gentium: The Once and Future Constitution
- * Saturday, 1:30 pm - Dei Verbum: Sacred Scripture since Vatican II
- * Saturday, 3:00 pm - Dignitatus Humanae: Religious Liberty and American Foreign Policy

Saturday, 6:30 pm - Cardinal Wright Award Dinner

Cardinal Wright Award to Gerard V. Bradley, J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School
Cardinal O'Boyle Award to Helen Hull Hitchcock, President, Women for Faith and Family, and Editor, Adoremus Bulletin

- * Sunday, 8:30 am - Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D., Bishop of Charlotte
- * Sunday, 9:45 am - Unitatis Redintegratio: Providential Turn or Historic Mistake?



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Church rededicated in Spruce Pine

HAVEN, from page 1

of this church," he said. "I am grateful to you, and to all the parishioners of St. Lucien, for this marvelous church, this gift to our Lord."

It was the liturgical guidelines in the Roman Missal as well as the Year of the Eucharist that inspired the renovations, said Father Gober, who became administrator in July 2003 and pastor in July 2004.

"I wanted to see what we could do as a parish to center ourselves around the Eucharist. That really drove the renovations," said Father Gober. "To have a proper sanctuary with the Blessed Sacrament at the center of the church invites people to have Christ at the center of their lives."

The overall beauty of the new church draws people deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist, said Father Gober.

"For many years this church has enjoyed the presence of Christ," said Bishop Jugis. "But now being completely restored and made new, we are welcoming Jesus Christ once again into this new sacred space."

"The celebration of the Mass, the celebration of the holy Eucharist, is what has and will continue to consecrate this place and make it holy," he said.

"The greatest comment I heard from a parishioner was that the new church

made it easier to pray and she didn't want to leave," said Father Gober.

Family spirit

The parishioners were very active in the refurbishing of the church.

"All of them made their own contributions," said Father Gober.

There is a spirit, he said, that is evident in the 85-household parish.

"I like the smallness of it (the church). You know everybody," said Greg Woody, a parishioner for 20 years.

"We're the friendliest little parish," said Hofschulz. "We help one another. We watch out for one another."

"The first time I came to Mass (59 years ago), there were six people," said Buchanan. "Since then we've gained a lot of new parishioners, but the sense of family hasn't changed."

After the dedication, parishioners and clergy gathered to share an outdoor dinner and memories. Bishop Jugis mingled with parishioners who remembered him from when he celebrated Mass in 1989 while the parish awaited a new pastor.

"Coming back to the church, it is certainly different today," said Bishop Jugis. "Not only are there many new faces, but the interior design is new."

Growing in faith

It was in March 1935 that Bishop



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Christopher Gober, pastor of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine, incenses the church during the rededication Mass Aug. 19.

William J. Hafey of North Carolina first received a gift of property on which the present church stands. Originally named St. Bernadette, it became the first Catholic church to serve Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties. The first Mass was celebrated June 28, 1935.

Construction to build a new church and rectory began in November 1939, and the church was completed in April of the next year. At the order of the bishop, the church was renamed St. Lucien because the principal donors placed as a condition that the church be named in memory of their daughter, Lucien Price. The new church and rectory were dedicated and blessed Aug. 17, 1940.

Glenmary priests took responsibility for the church in 1956, with an energetic period of evangelization following, including the church's first renovation.

"We gained a lot of new people, and the social hall became part of the church," said Buchanan.

The Glenmary priests remained until 1968. Diocesan priests have served the Spruce Pine parish since.

The church was again remodeled in the late 1960s. Increasingly larger crowds at Mass — both residents and visitors — led the parish to plan a building program in 1985, which involved the

construction of a new rectory and an expansion of the church.

Ground was broken for the rectory in 1987 and the house was completed within six months. The former rectory was transformed into the parish social hall, complete with offices and classrooms.

St. Lucien Church experienced continued growth over the next decade. Expansion and renovations to the church more than doubled its seating capacity and improved the facility. Also, a house adjacent to the property was purchased and the parking lot was paved.

"I don't know what we'll do if we grow some more," said Buchanan. "I guess the church will have to grow some more."

"We went from a small church of 10 seats to 120 seats," said Bernice Trzpis, a parishioner of 20 years. "It's been a lot of hard work, but we've come a long way and look what we have today. We've been blessed by God."

WANT MORE HISTORY?

For the history of St. Lucien Church, read the parish profile on St. Lucien Church's Web page at www.charlottediocese.org/parishes-all.html.

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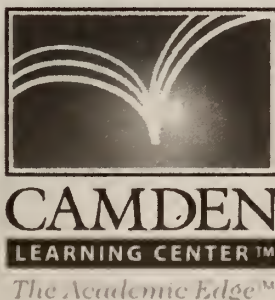
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WORLD YOUTH DAY

'We Have Come to Worship Him'

Tribulation and triumph unites world's youth

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — What happened when 1 million Catholics converged on Cologne, Germany for World Youth Day 2005?

Hundreds of thousands of young people camped out in sleeping bags in Marienfeld, a former open-cast mining area 15 miles west of Cologne. Mass transit trains were delayed and stations were shut down due to a lack of oxygen.

During the opening Mass Aug. 14, some pilgrims who were standing in the overflow section were unable to receive Communion.

"Instead we began shaking hands, hugging and giving high fives to the hundreds of other pilgrims that passed by," said Corein Brown, assistant director of campus ministry for Belmont Abbey College.

Brown was part of a group of pilgrims that included 15 young people, the director and associate director for youth ministry from the Diocese of Charlotte; six members of the Belmont Abbey community; and three young people from the Diocese of Evansville, Ind. and chaperones.

"World Youth Day was very faith-filled," said Peg Ruble, associate director for youth ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. "The pope was a distant experience, but the encounter with Jesus in the faces of other pilgrims was constant and clear."

The young pilgrims at World Youth Day, themed "We Have Come to Worship Him," were amazed at the different ways Catholics celebrate the same Mass.

"(In Germany) they take Communion in the hand, while we always take it in the mouth, and our women always wear head coverings," said Fitzgerald Umah, president of the Catholic student association at the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Mass is much livelier in Nigeria, said



COURTESY PHOTO

Pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte proudly display the diocesan flag during the World Youth Day 2005 celebrations in Cologne, Germany. Twenty-one young people, ages 18-24, and their chaperones attended the six-day event, along with an estimated 1 million young Catholics from 193 nations.

"We walked side by side as a small group of 18 in a sea of a million and we realized that (we) were now sharing ... in Christ's love."

Amaka Ogbuenu.

"Young people in our host parishes have come up to us and said that we have brought them back to their faith by showing that Mass can be youthful," said Ogbuenu. "They sang and danced with us and they liked it, telling us that German Mass is traditionally more conservative and thus has less to offer for young people."

Many pilgrims were eager to bring

the customs they witnessed back to their own parishes.

"When we pray, we are very spiritual," said Shirley Fernandes of Pune, India. "We always close our eyes, fold our hands and pray, but here I think the way of praying is very different. It's more through singing, more lively, and that's what I'd like to take back to India."

Franziska Broich helped host Polish

pilgrims in a village near Cologne.

"They have a such a strong faith," she said. "I think we can learn from it. We were so impressed when they came on the first evening, and they prayed for a half an hour before their dinner. We said, 'How can that be, they are praying and singing and that it is so much fun for them?' So we want to learn from them."

Despite the crowds and inconvenience, Jim Arnold of St. Patrick Church in Milford, Pa., said he left with "a stronger feeling that Catholicism is right, that it crosses boundaries, that there is a common belief, and it's a wonderful feeling to take all of this and bring it back home to that small part of the world, and to share it with the people that we live with and are closest with."

"One thing that especially impacted me was the way the German people took our antics in stride," said Ruble. "They were stuck on the trains, in the streets, in restaurants and shops with these throngs of enthusiastic, sweaty, singing youth ... and they smiled. God bless them."

The group from North Carolina walked with pilgrims from Italy, Kosovo, Nigeria and Ireland. They danced with drummers from Ecuador, Guatemala and Madagascar.

"We walked side by side as a small group of 18 in a sea of a million and we realized that (we) were now sharing in the history of Germany, sharing in the celebration of our Catholic unity and sharing in Christ's love," Brown said.

Michael Lawton contributed to this story.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

* Pope John Paul II announced the first World Youth Day celebration in 1984.

* The first World Youth Day was in Rome on Palm Sunday, 1985.

* The next World Youth Day will take place in Sydney, Australia in 2008.

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Music begins congress

MUSIC, from page 1

church history and feature classical composers including Bach, Mozart, Schubert and (Thomas) Tallis," said Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, director of music at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

Stratemeyer and Tiffany Gallozzi, music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, are preparing the choir comprised of about 75 parishioners from churches around the Diocese of Charlotte.

"More than likely, you will know someone in the choir. And they have put in an exorbitant amount of preparation," said Gallozzi.

"We've been rehearsing all month," said Stratemeyer Aug. 29. "It's a remarkable effort on their behalf to sing music that is beautiful and challenging. Their enthusiasm has been high."

Gallozzi will lead her choir in performing the same music at the opening of the fourth annual Triumph of the Cross, to be held at St. Barnabas Church Sept. 9-10. Andrew Davis, director of music at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, is serving as the organ accompanist.

"It will be traditional Catholic music from various time periods put in a contemporary format," said Gallozzi. "It really shows the beauty of music that God has given us."

The free concert at the Eucharistic Congress, expected to run 60-90 minutes, is "an opportunity to experience live choral music, which is a treat," said Stratemeyer.

"The selections are all wonderful, very

likable music," he said, adding that some pieces specifically honor the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic Congress will be "a time of celebration, adoration and teaching centered on the mystery of the Eucharist," according to Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

In addition to the program of sacred music, Friday evening will feature eucharistic adoration and a talk by actor Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in last year's film "The Passion of the Christ."

Saturday will begin with a eucharistic procession from St. Peter Church in Charlotte to the convention center. The procession will feature choirs, Catholic organizations, youth groups and parishioners from all 92 parishes and missions in the diocese. The monstration carried by Bishop Jugis through uptown Charlotte was blessed by Pope John Paul II.

The congress will feature seminars, speakers and activities for adults, children and youths, and conclude with a Mass Saturday afternoon.

Several shorter pieces of music will be extracted from the Friday concert for use during the closing Mass.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

WANT TO GO?

The Eucharistic Congress sacred choral music concert starts at 7 p.m. in the Charlotte Convention Center's Main Ballroom, accessible through the Second Street entrance. For more information on the congress, visit www.goeucharist.com.

Third Movement: Communion

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 23

As we began our discussion of the Liturgy of the Eucharist a few weeks ago, we discovered that the drama of our redemption is unfolded in three movements during the holy sacrifice of the Mass: the offertory, the consecration and the reception of holy Communion.

In the offertory, not only are bread and wine presented and offered, but more importantly, we offer ourselves to the Father along with Christ who offers himself. In the offertory we present ourselves for sacrifice with Christ; in the consecration we die with him. We apply his death to ourselves that we may share his resurrection and glory.

And in holy Communion, we find that we have not died, but that we have come to life. In a certain sense, the substance of bread and wine must be sacrificed, must cease to exist, so that it may become the body and blood of Christ. In the same way, our old habits of sin must also be sacrificed so that we might have new life in Christ.

Let us now turn to the Communion Rite to inspect this third movement of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Communion Rite begins at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer. The faithful now stand and, at the invitation of the celebrant, sing or recite the Lord's Prayer.

It is important to note that there is no instruction in the Roman Missal to join hands during this prayer or during any prayer of the Mass. However, if you wish to hold hands with your neighbor, please keep in mind that: your neighbor may not wish to hold your hand (many are uncomfortable holding hands) and, since there is no universal instruction to do so, this gesture is not universally practiced in all Catholic churches.

So if you visit another Catholic church, do not be surprised if they do not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer.

From the most ancient historical documents and records of theologians and saints, the Lord's Prayer was included in the Mass prior to receiving holy Communion. It is fitting that this prayer is placed between the Eucharistic Prayer and reception of holy Communion since: 1) the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer summarize the petitions offered in the Eucharistic Prayer and 2) the Lord's Prayer is the proper prayer of the whole Catholic Church, uniting and preparing the faithful for divine communion (Cf. CCC #2770).

In the Mass, the celebrant invites us to pray to our heavenly Father with filial boldness, since it was Jesus, the Son of God, who taught us to call God "our Father."

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



Through the sacrament of baptism, we truly have become adopted children of the heavenly Father through his Son.

Therefore, when "we pray to the Father, we are in communion with him and with his Son, Jesus Christ" (CCC #2781). But this communion is a spiritual communion, one that prepares us for the sacramental Communion that will occur when we receive the holy Eucharist.

From early on, reciting the Lord's Prayer in the Mass contained a unique conclusion. The "Didache" and the apostolic constitutions added a doxology to the end of the Lord's Prayer. This practice is retained in the Mass, but the final doxology follows a prayer recited by the celebrant, known as the embolism.

Developing the final petition of the Lord's Prayer, the celebrant prays for deliverance from evil for the entire community of the faithful and ends with the hope of the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The short ritual known as the Rite of Peace follows the Lord's Prayer and is introduced by the celebrant with a prayer directed to Jesus Christ, who is truly present on the altar. This prayer recalls the gift of the risen Christ to his apostles on the day of his glorious resurrection and expresses ecclesial communion and mutual charity before receiving holy Communion.

The deacon or priest may invite us to exchange the sign of peace with those nearest to us. The priest and ministers are not normally allowed to leave the sanctuary to exchange the sign of peace, since the priest has already exchanged peace with the faithful.

Ultimately, what we discover as we approach holy Communion is that our communion with another (in faith, as well as charity) is to be established before it is to be expressed by receiving Communion.

Next time, we will finish our examination of the rites that prepare and dispose us to receive holy Communion.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

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For questions or to let us know you're coming, email: rsvpforlife@aol.com



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FROM THE COVER

Collection will benefit retired priests

PRIESTS, from page 1

diocese,” said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte. “No matter where our retired priests are, they are still celebrating their priesthood in a variety of ministries.”

Many of the dedicated retired priests of the Diocese of Charlotte fill in for priests who are on vacation, retreat or sick. Others spend their time praying for the intentions of parishioners or visiting the sick or imprisoned.

Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte soon will have the opportunity to show they care about these priests who have faithfully served the Diocese of Charlotte, many for more than 40 years of their lives.

The annual Priests’ Retirement and Benefits Collection, this year themed “Business as Usual,” will be taken up in every parish the weekend of Sept. 10-11.

The collection helps provide monthly benefits for the 25 retired diocesan priests, including Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

“There is no real retirement for priests,” said Bishop Curlin. “But we are now able to devote all our time to the

spiritual and pastoral work for which we were ordained, free from the administrative tasks of a pastor or bishop.”

Bishop Curlin is as busy, if not busier these days than he was before his retirement in 2002. Much of his time is spent leading priests’ retreats and parish missions throughout the United States. He is also in demand to celebrate weddings, baptisms and funerals, and visits the hospitalized almost daily.

In the four years since he retired, Father Joseph Waters has continued to serve many of the Hispanic Catholics of the diocese.

“I celebrate Mass in Spanish in Eden (at St. Joseph of the Hills Church) Saturday evenings and in Mooresville (at St. Therese Church) on Sunday afternoons,” Father Waters said.

He also hears confessions every other Sunday at Divine Redeemer Church in Booneville and often celebrates daily Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Father Waters does find time to play golf about once a week, he said.

Contributions also help provide for the future retirements of the 86 diocesan priests currently involved in active ministry, as well as the retirement funds of the 49 religious order priests serving in the diocese.

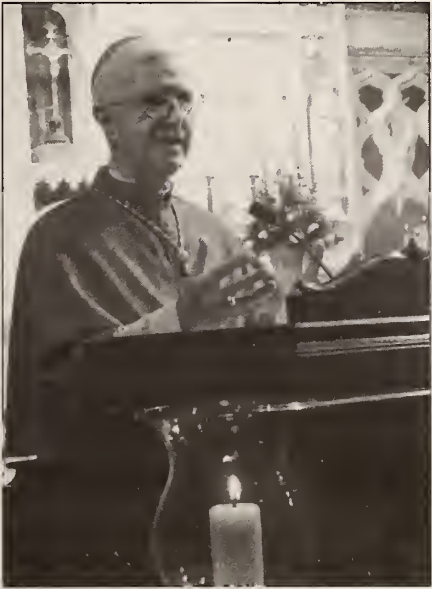


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin gives the homily during a Mass celebrating the 100-year anniversary of a Knights of Columbus council at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Nov. 13, 2004. Bishop Curlin is one of 25 retired priests in the diocese, many of whom remain active in a variety of ministries.

The campaign’s goal is to collect \$1,175,000 — \$812,300 to fund the diocesan priests’ retirement and benefits plans; \$335,700 to support the retirement funds of religious order priests currently serving in our diocese; and \$27,000 to cover campaign expenses.

Each parish is assessed 3.5 percent of its annual offertory collection to raise

funds needed to support the Priests’ Retirement and Benefits Collection. In most parishes, that amount is slightly less than two times the regular Sunday offertory.

Proportionate contributions on the weekend of Sept. 10-11 will help parishes pay the assessment.

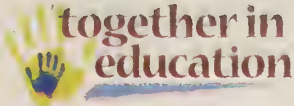
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DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE’S RETIRED PRIESTS






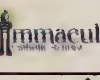




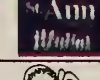




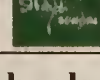
- Father James Cahill
- Father Francis M. Cintula
- Father Thomas Clements
- Father Francis Connolly
- Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
- Father Aloysius D’Silva
- Father William Evans
- Father Patrick Gavigan
- Father Raymond Hourihan
- Father Joseph Kelleher
- Msgr. Joseph Kerin
- Father Conrad Kimbrough
- Msgr. Anthony Kovacic
- Father Andrew Latsko
- Father Bernard Manley
- Father Richard McCue
- Father Gabriel Meehan
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- Father Charles Reese
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- Father James Solari
- Father Edward Sullivan
- Father John Tuller
- Msgr. Thomas Walsh
- Father Joseph Waters



Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools Earned almost \$45,000 in 2004-2005



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	Immaculate Heart of Mary School—High Point Harris Teeter code 1581		Immaculata Catholic School—Hendersonville Harris Teeter code 1283
	Our Lady of the Assumption School—Charlotte Harris Teeter code 2477		Our Lady of Grace School—Greensboro Harris Teeter code 1033
	Our Lady of Mercy School—Winston-Salem Harris Teeter code 3061		Sacred Heart Catholic School—Salisbury Harris Teeter code 1330
	St. Gabriel Catholic School—Charlotte Harris Teeter code 1770		St. Ann Catholic School—Charlotte Harris Teeter code 1931
	St. Leo Catholic School—Winston-Salem Harris Teeter code 3427		St. Mark Catholic School—Huntersville Harris Teeter code 5426
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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Jesuit's prayer book for military personnel in its third edition

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. (CNS) — A Boston College Jesuit, Father Daniel Sweeney, has compiled a pocket-size book of prayers and catechism lessons specifically for men and women serving in the military.

The 64-page waterproof booklet, designed to fit in the pocket of a battle dress uniform, is actually in its third edition. It is being distributed free of charge by the Knights of Columbus in conjunction with the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Based in Washington, the military archdiocese is responsible for the pastoral care of more than 1.4 million Catholics, including people in uniform and family

members of active-duty personnel; and those serving in government service overseas or in Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Regarding the prayer book, "Armed With the Faith: A Catholic Handbook for Military Personnel," Father Sweeney said he hoped it will meet demand among military personnel to better understand the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith in a manner that directly addresses the realities of military life.

The book includes prayers, devotions, sacramental theology, catechetical information and hymns, and a brief outline of just-war theory in the Catholic tradition. It also includes information on duties battlefield chaplains.

WRITERS SOUGHT

Last call for manuscripts!



The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 11, 2005

Sept. 11, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Sirach 27:30-28:9
Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12
- 2) Romans 14:7-9
- 3) Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness is infinite through God

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We know down to the split second what we were doing and remember the fear, anger and overwhelming sadness we felt when we witnessed the unbelievable on Sept. 11, 2001. My own son-in-law narrowly missed being in the very spot in the Pentagon where the plane exploded in a fireball.

When I consider 9/11 and the horrifying days and months that followed, I thank God for the extraordinary efforts of our parish priest, Father Joe Scantlin, who confirmed for all time that the word "pastor" is truly a verb.

Father Joe crafted his homilies to help us grapple with the sorrow, rage and brutal sense of uncertainty we were experiencing. He encouraged us to pray and to depend on the Lord for

guidance. If he happened to shake your hand before or after Mass, the handshake came with the sense that all will be well.

An almost ironic thread runs through the readings for this Sunday. They are so pertinent for life in 2005 that they could have been written yesterday.

The ancient wisdom writer Sirach warns about the devastation that anger and vengeance cause when a person continues to "hug" wrath rather than let it go.

Peter asks for us a question about forgiveness in today's Gospel reading. "Lord ... how often must I forgive?" Notice that Peter also gives Jesus a suggested answer: "As many as seven times?"

However, Peter receives an unexpected answer and a parable to illustrate the point so there will be no doubt about the importance Jesus places on forgiveness. When Jesus uses the number 77, he means our ability to forgive can be infinite only with God's assistance.

We have to remember what the servant in the parable forgot: Forgiveness is a process. When we are forgiven, the Lord expects us to forgive in return. We cannot cling to hatred and vengeance; we must cling to God instead.

The challenge of the readings in the context of today's anniversary is immense. However, St. Paul reminds us that "whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life."

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4-10

Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20; Monday, Colossians 1:24-2:3, Luke 6:6-11; Tuesday, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 6:12-19; Wednesday, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; Thursday (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Micah 5:1-4, Matthew 1:16, 18-23; Friday (St. Peter Claver), 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14, Luke 6:39-42; Saturday, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 6:43-49

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11-17

Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35; Monday (Most Holy Name of Mary), 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 7:1-10; Tuesday (St. John Chrysostom), 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17; Wednesday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross), Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; Thursday (Our Lady of Sorrows), 1 Timothy 4:12-16, John 19:25-27; Friday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian), 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Luke 8:1-3; Saturday (St. Robert Bellarmine), 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15



Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of September

Rev. Edward F. O'Doherty	1998
Rev. James King	1978
Rev. Msgr. Hugh Dolan	1981
Rev. John J. Murray	1997
Rev. Msgr. Arthur Duncan	2002
Rev. Msgr. Thomas Burke	2001

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Catholic TV, film actor says faith helps him navigate career, life

BY PAULA DOYLE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Filming a wedding scene in his own parish church was a bit jarring for actor Nestor Carbonell, who plays wealthy entrepreneur Jonas Ray on the drama series "Strong Medicine," airing on the Lifetime cable television network.

"It was bizarre to film in a church where I worship every Sunday," said Carbonell, 37, a native of New York who attends St. Brendan Church in Los Angeles.

The busy television and film actor, who spent three lean years in Hollywood before landing his 1996-2000 breakout role as ladies' man Luis Rivera in the sitcom "Suddenly Susan" starring Brooke Shields, "married" his television fiancée, Dr. Lu Delgado, in the Aug. 21 episode of "Strong Medicine."

Like his Jonas TV character, Carbonell comes from a large Cuban-American family. In spite of the fact that his family moved 13 times for his dad's corporate position, his Catholic parents made sure Carbonell and his brother and

sister attended Mass and received the sacraments.

"Catholicism was what I was raised in," he said. "To me, it's a map on how to lead your life. I'm glad I had it. I found it very important in my life to guide me."

After getting bitten by the acting bug at Harvard, Carbonell performed in off-Broadway plays before moving west in his mid-20s to try his luck in Hollywood. To support himself, he made fruit drinks at a juice bar and later taught English at night to students in Los Angeles' Koreatown.

"I turned to my faith to find strength," said Carbonell, who would often go to St. Ambrose Church in West Hollywood to sit and meditate during those struggling-actor days.

In 1995, Carbonell was cast in the short-lived television series, "Muscle," where he met his Australian-born Catho-

lic wife, Shannon Kenny.

Currently a stay-at-home mother to their two boys, Nestor Rafael, 3, and newborn Marco, Kenny has had a recurring role as a neighborhood mom on the WB series "7th Heaven."

She and the children visited Carbonell on the St. Brendan "set" during the episode's taping in July.

When not acting or helping with the children, Carbonell works on a screenplay adaptation of a book, "Against All Hope," by Armando Valladares, who spent more than 20 years in a Cuban prison because he objected to Fidel Castro's communist revolution and refused to renounce his faith.

In 2000, Carbonell wrote and starred in "Attention Shoppers," a film about an actor who learns about life and love on his way to host a store opening.



Rev. Joseph Koterski, SJ



Msgr. Richard Bellow



Rev. Edward Sheridan

Catholic Church Teaching on "End of Life" Ethics

Sponsored by:

The Office of Justice & Peace and the Respect Life and Elder Ministry programs of the Family Life Office

These FREE presentations will provide guidance on what you need to know about making end of life medical care decisions in light of Catholic Social Teaching. Thinking about and planning for medical care in advance helps eliminate unnecessary and difficult dilemmas for family members and loved ones.

Each presentation will cover the same topics. Please register in advance.

St. Pius X Church, Greensboro — Tuesday, September 13

Kloster Center

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow, Pastor, St. Mark Church

St. James Church, Hamlet — Wednesday, September 21

Parish Hall

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Rev. Edward Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church

St. Mark Church, Huntersville — Thursday, September 22

Worship Area

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

Presenter: Msgr. Richard Bellow, Pastor, St. Mark Church

St. Aloysius Church, Hickory — Tuesday, September 27

Holy Family Hall

6:30 pm - Light snack 7-8 pm - Presentation 8-8:30 pm - Q&A

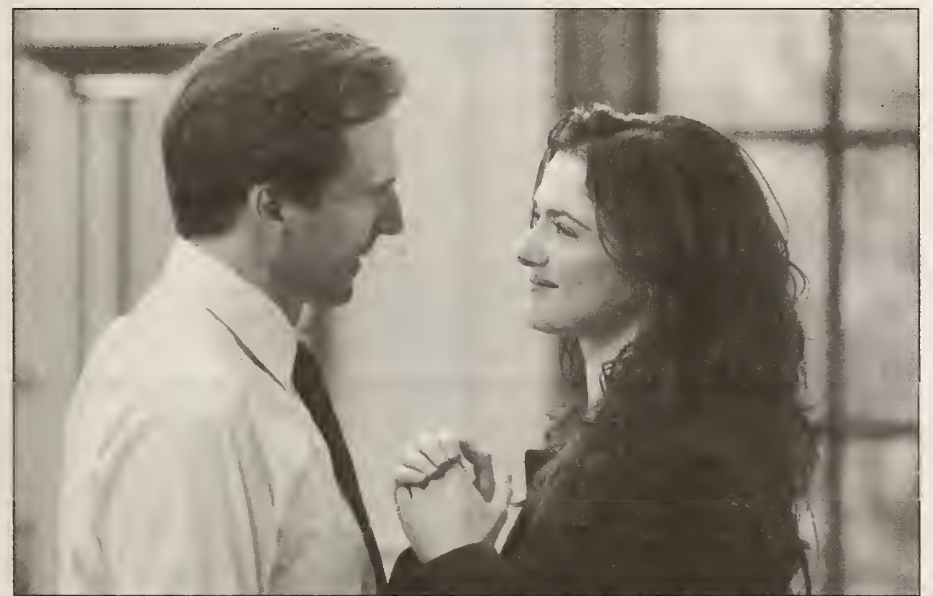
Presenter: Rev. Edward Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church



****Attendance is free, but please register in advance by calling 704-370-3228 or emailing sabeason@charlottediocese.org.**

More details about these presentations are at: www.cssnc.org

'Gardener' grows suspenseful story



CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz star in "The Constant Gardener," a complex political thriller about an African-based British diplomat who sets out to uncover the mystery behind the murder of his apparently unfaithful activist wife and uncovers a web of intrigue involving conspiracies, government corruption and betrayal at the highest levels of power and the pharmaceutical industry. The adaptation of a novel is a long, but generally absorbing, suspense story and a condemnation of drug testing on unsuspecting Third World people, with solid performances and flavorful location shooting in Kenya. Brief rear and partial nudity, scattered profanity, rough language and crude expressions, a restrained premarital bedroom scene, quick blurry shots of violence including lynching, and a gruesome description of death. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Back to school again

SCHOOLS, from page 1

day was held for new-to-teaching teachers. Additionally, new teachers attended a religious in-service day with Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious education in schools.

"Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools' enrollment is up dramatically, especially with an increase at Charlotte Catholic High School of almost 100 students," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

"The Catholic community continues to grow in the diocese and that is reflected in a growing interest in our

Catholic schools," said Cherry.

Renovations, both inside and outside, have taken place at many of the schools, noted Cherry.

The new school year also features three new principals: Linda Kenzik at Immaculata School in Hendersonville, Mary Leva at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte and Gary Gelo at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro.

"What a privilege it is for our community to ensure that Catholic schools continue to flourish as centers of faith, hope and love within the diocese," said Father James Hawker, vicar of education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Program Director Office of Economic Opportunity

Job Opening: Program Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Catholic Social Services (OEO/CSS), Diocese of Charlotte. The Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, seeks person with community/economic development experience for its Murphy office in western North Carolina. Will maintain and supervise current OEO/CSS programs and develop new programs. Will collaborate with community partners to promote the economic well-being of individuals, families and communities in western NC. A more detailed job description, and education, experience and skills required for position, are available at www.cssnc.org (click on OEO/CSS). Mail resume (postmarked by Friday, 9/16) with signed cover letter offering qualifications for position to:

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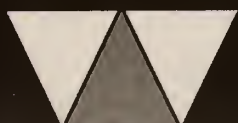
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BACK TO SCHOOL

SCHOOL FACTS

The 18 diocesan Catholic schools are separated into three entities:

— Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), a centralized, regional system of schools in the Charlotte (a high school, a middle school, five K-5 schools and one K-8 school).

— Diocesan parish-based schools, which include nine schools serving K-8 and, in some instances, preschool.

— A diocesan-based high school, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, which services the Triad area of North Carolina.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Regina Daniel, a physical education teacher at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, paints hopscotch lines on the playground so students can play at recess on the first day of classes Aug. 25.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Carrie Vest, a teacher's aide and parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, explains the line-up procedures to new kindergarten students on the first day of school at Immaculate Heart of Mary School Aug. 25.



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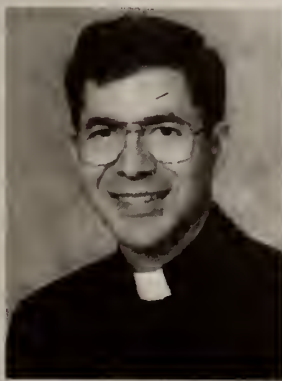
Right: Parents of new first-graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro attend a parent orientation meeting at the school Aug. 23.



COURTESY PHOTO

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www.priestsforlife.org

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Remembering the rights of workers

Labor Day statements recall teachings of Pope John Paul II

Each year as Labor Day approaches, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issues a statement focusing on a particular aspect of work, worker's rights and the condition of labor, offered in the light of the church's social doctrine.

Past statements have visited global trade, farm worker justice, the rights of workers to organize and the importance of the family when analyzing working conditions. These statements seek to be timely and relevant to the existing economic conditions of the day; they serve as a reminder that issues of workplace justice are also issues of concern for communities of faith.

"Labor Day 2005: Work, Pope John Paul II, and Catholic Teaching," issued Aug. 25 by the USCCB's Domestic Policy Committee, can be read in its entirety (in English and Spanish) at www.usccb.org. The statement focuses less on a particular labor issue and more on offering a general summary of the church's teachings on work, worker rights and a framework for economic life.

It emphasizes the tremendous contribution of Pope John Paul II to the development and promulgation of Catholic social doctrine on work and workers' rights.

Pope John Paul II struggled side by side with the workers of Poland facing Communist repression as they sought a voice to improve their working conditions and shape the Polish economy. His profound concern for worker rights was manifested in his third encyclical, "Laborem Exercens" ("On Human Work"), published in 1981.

In this encyclical, the pope challenged materialistic or utilitarian views of labor as an affront to human dignity. Such views of labor lead to economic systems that stifle the desire of workers "to share in the responsibility and creativity of the work process," and leave workers to "feel themselves to be cogs in a huge machine moved from above."

The Catholic Church's social doctrine considers the human person as the measure of the dignity of work: "In fact there is no doubt that human work has an ethical value of its own, which

Guest Column

JOE PURELLO
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
JUSTICE & PEACE



clearly and directly remains linked to the fact that the one who carries it out is a person" ("Laborem Exercens").

Pope John Paul II saw work as "the key to the solution of the whole social question."

Work is never an end in and of itself or the means by which one profits at the expense of another. Work is a noble means by which one "maintains and develops humanity" in which "we must work out of regard for others, especially our own families."

Pope John Paul II saw work as a continuation of the contributions made by those who went before us, and our way of sharing "in the building of the future of all those who will come after us."

On Labor Day, we celebrate the American worker — past, present and future. We celebrate not only current workers, but also those who, through innovation, hard work and sacrifice (often under unjust conditions), contributed to the making of our diverse economy that provides so many with sustenance.

We also consider the future of labor and ask how our work provides for future generations an economy where workers' rights and dignity are more fully respected.

Millions of workers in health care, public safety, retail, food and other service industries work on Labor Day to make the holiday enjoyable and safe. Those of us who do not have to work on Labor Day might consider showing special appreciation for those workers we encounter that day (e.g., a word of thanks; a particularly generous tip; a prayer offered for their safety).

The USCCB Labor Day statements are a call to the Catholic community to apply the principles of the church's social doctrine to our economic system. Please consider visiting www.usccb.org to read this year's Labor Day statement.

Let us ask also St. Joseph, patron of workers, to pray for us.

Joe Purello is director of Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Back to school

Learning how to love project

The school buildings were willing and ready to welcome students and teachers of the new academic year. I presume the students and teachers were anxious and excited to start another year, and they could not wait for it.

Going to school, as we know, is more than learning math and science; it's about learning how to live, rather than simply how to make a living.

We are called to be the image of God, the Scripture tells us, and to the extent that we learn how to reflect a clear image of the Divine Model, we draw ourselves into real life and love. Learning how to love is what life is all about. That's why we get up each morning. That's why we bring children into the world. That's why we are here today.

In a "Peanuts" comic strip, Charlie Brown is busy with a woodworking project. His friend Lucy comes along and asks, "How's the birdhouse coming along, Charlie Brown?"

He replies, "Well, I'm a lousy carpenter, I can't nail straight, I can't saw straight and I always split the wood. I'm nervous, I lack confidence, I'm stupid, I have poor taste, and absolutely no sense of design."

Then, in the last frame, he concludes, "So, all things considered, it's coming along OK."

Our life is a "learning how to love project" and, if someone should ask how our project is coming along, in truth we would have to acknowledge our shortcomings as builders of loving relationships in the image of God. If, by accident, we see ourselves as perfect, we do have a real problem.

We are beginners, apprentices, we develop our skills, and after all is said and done, we agree with Charlie Brown: "All things considered, it's coming along OK."

When you look into the mirror of your own soul, what do you see reflected? Do you see a perfect image of God and love? If you are inclined to say yes, then I would urge you to look again.

Hopefully, a closer look will reflect an image of you as a dedicated apprentice in the school of learning how to love, an image of one who can say in all honesty: "I need to do more, I need to practice

Guest Column

FATHER
JOHN AURILIA,
OFM CAP.
GUEST COLUMNIST



more, I need to try harder but, all things considered, It's coming along OK."

A certain pastor was becoming disheartened by the attitude of many parishioners. "This church is lifeless," they were saying. Sunday attendance began dropping sharply and the spiritual life of the church was at such a low ebb that the pastor proposed a course of action to improve the situation.

Since the church was considered "dead," he announced he would conduct its funeral the following Sunday. When Sunday came, the church was crowded. From their pews, the people stared curiously at the coffin that had been placed in front of the pulpit.

The pastor climbed onto the pulpit and eulogized "the deceased." He spoke of how much the church had accomplished in the past and he expressed sorrow over its untimely demise. Then he invited the congregation to come forward and view the "corpse."

One by one the people looked into the casket, and each was amazed to see his or her own face reflected from a mirror laying in the bottom of the coffin. Most were shocked, some were indignant. They slowly but surely began to realize that the church's lifelessness of which they complained was due largely to their own spiritual indifference.

As you begin the new academic year, remember that you make the difference in a world that may be indifferent at times. A good school teaches us science and math, but more important, how to love and live.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Aurilia, Ph.D., is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Way to Heaven

Those who say
a good person
of any faith
can go to heaven
or attain salvation



Source: Beliefnet.com
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Helping hands in a hurricane

MEDIA, CHRISTIANS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ASSIST THOSE IN NEED

News coverage of hurricanes, like what we saw as Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, brings out the best and the dumbest in the media.

The dumbest are those foolhardy reporters who unthinkingly stand on the seashore telling us that it's a dangerous place that should be evacuated. Duh!

This double standard of "you go, me stay" is as clichéd as the shots of wind-blown palm trees. I was once one of those television reporters who perched on a sand dune and contemptuously looked Mother Nature in the eye. Fortunately, God seems to have a special love for fools, and I survived.

I've lived to say, many times, that the dumbest thing I ever did was to greet Hurricane Hugo when it clobbered Charleston in 1989. The 135 m.p.h. winds of that storm created monster-movie sounds that I can still hear. I spent the night hunkered down in a Market Street hotel alternately praying for deliverance and cursing my foolish self for accepting the assignment.

Watching rain-soaked reporters might be riveting television, but it's dumb for the reporters to be in the path of a force of nature that is like a runaway train. And it is completely irresponsible for news organizations and The Weather

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



Channel, which should know better, to routinely put people in harm's way when the most important news of a storm, its direction, can be safely seen on radar.

The rain was still pummeling New Orleans when I received my first call from a Charlotte reporter wanting to know how the Diocese of Charlotte was going to help the people of Louisiana. This is what the media does best — sharing news of a need to thousands, even millions, of people.

It is reassuring to know the Catholic Church is one of the first places the media contacts when a disaster strikes. In addition to the offering of prayers for everyone who was affected by the winds and rising waters, our church can quickly marshal resources to address the needs of people across the country or across the planet, as was the case when the tsunami struck Southeast Asia in December.

Gerry Carter, associate director of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, helps the diocese respond to disasters.

"We are a secondary responder," he

said. "We respond to a call from a bishop or from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops when a need arises."

The response to the tsunami need in January was generous. Nationally, \$150 million was pledged by Catholic Relief Services for the victims. In the Diocese of Charlotte, \$520,078 was raised and forwarded to CRS for distribution.

When the surging waters recede, the media stories will follow a predictable pattern. First are the scenes of destruction combined with stories of miraculous survival. These are followed by stories about the efforts of relief organizations and, finally, how the survivors are coping. Inherent in all of these stories are messages of thanks and messages of need that pull at our heart and often our purse strings.

Disasters represent a curious intersection of the media and the people of faith who offer the prayers and write many of the checks that restore the lives of the devastated. Unfortunately for all of us, the good that the media does after a storm like Katrina is short lived. News organizations are compelled to move on to the next disaster.

There will always be another disaster, just as there will always be a need for those of us on the high ground to offer a helping hand.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Pope, at audience, says children are gifts from God

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children are gifts from God, and they offer joy and support for parents and society, Pope Benedict XVI said in his weekly general audience.

Nations with declining birthrates are missing "the freshness, the energy, the future" brought by children, he added.

In his Aug. 31 audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope reflected on Psalm 127, which celebrates the Lord's gift of children "who are seen as a blessing and a grace" and as a source of support for parents in their old age.

The pope flew by helicopter from his papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, 20 miles away, to hold his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square to accommodate the large number of pilgrims in attendance.

Some 11,000 people gathered in the square to hear the pope and receive his blessing.

"Whatever we do or undertake can only bear fruit if it has God's blessing," he said.

"A strong society is, of course, built out of the labor of its members, but it also needs the blessing and support of God who, unfortunately, is instead often excluded or ignored," said the pope.

A person's efforts also need divine grace in order to be fruitful, he said.

"The peaceful and faithful relinquishment of our freedom to God renders our activity to be solidly based and capable of long-lasting fruit," he said.

End of life issues, Part 1

A Catholic look at North Carolina advance directives

On March 20, 2004, Pope John Paul II gave a concluding address to the Vatican-sponsored International Congress On Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State. He had some wonderful words on the topic of end-of-life (and perhaps "not-so-end-of-life") decision making, especially in the context of a "persistent vegetative state."

The words were immediately misquoted and misunderstood. The address certainly rankled many who did not understand what he had to say, including Catholic physicians.

In fact, any Catholic with an understanding of the Catholic Church's teaching on the subject (particularly the teaching of our late pope) will understand the immediate need carefully to prepare and execute advance directives that comply with secular law. These directives, also misunderstood, can be used to enforce death and to enforce life.

I will summarize the state of North Carolina law in view of the church's teaching and what you can do to ensure that you have a set of advance directives that complies with both secular law and church teaching.

An in-depth treatment of the church's position on the topic is impossible in this column. In a nutshell: Euthanasia is the intentional killing of another for the purpose of eliminating all

suffering. It is never acceptable.

It is, on the other hand, morally permitted to forego aggressive medical treatment that will be disproportionate to the expected results and impose an excessive burden in view of the patient's real situation when death is clearly imminent and inevitable.

"Disproportionate" means that there will be a cost-benefit analysis; if the pain and intrusiveness of the treatment clearly outweigh any expected benefit to the patient, the intervention will be "disproportionate." Whether the termination of medical treatment amounts to euthanasia involves an examination of the will behind the omission and the means used.

Interestingly, the foregoing standards might be considered a base moral norm. Pope John Paul II wrote in "Evangelium Vitae" that the voluntary acceptance of suffering, while a heroic measure perhaps not meant for everyone, might be worthy of praise.

Nevertheless, a Catholic may forgo aggressive medical treatment with a clear conscience if death is neither willed nor sought, and if that decision to forgo treatments will not prevent the discharge of important moral and religious duties.

Also in a nutshell: Furnishing nutrition and hydration is never a medical act; it is an ordinary act. As an "ordinary act," it is usually morally obligatory.

Guest Column

BOB MASON
GUEST COLUMNIST



When might it not be morally obligatory? Pope John Paul II, in his address to the International Congress, provided an answer: when hydration and nutrition have reached their "proper finality," when they provide neither nourishment nor the relief of pain.

And finally: vegetative state. A patient in a vegetative state is not a "vegetable." He or she retains all of the dignity of a human being created by, and in the image of, God.

The consideration of whether a patient is in what some physicians may determine to be a technical vegetative state is never appropriate when making end-of-life decisions. The North Carolina statutory definition of "persistent vegetative state" must be considered carefully. More on that will follow.

These are difficult teachings to understand thoroughly. When in doubt talk to your priest, inform yourself and pray. Then set out to understand North Carolina law.

Next time, I will discuss North Carolina law regarding advance directives.

Bob Mason is an elder law attorney and a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Asheboro.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2005

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER — COLLEGE ST. & STONEWALL

FRIDAY, 7 PM: SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

SATURDAY, 8 AM: EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

CONGRESS SPEAKERS



Bishop William Curlin - Eucharistic Holy Hour Homily -- Bishop Curlin is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte.



Bishop Peter Jugis - "Welcome" -- Bishop Jugis is the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

General Track



James Caviezel - Actor; best known for his stunning performance as Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ." His testimony about his Catholic faith is as riveting as any of his screen performances.

Kerri Caviezel - wife of the well-known actor and a dynamic speaker in her own right



Scott Hahn - "The Lamb's Supper" -- Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He is well known, both nationally and internationally, for inspiring audiences as he explores topics relating Scripture to our Catholic faith.



Johnnette Benkovic - "In His Eucharistic Heart" -- Ms. Benkovic is the founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International, Inc., a Catholic evangelization apostolate with worldwide outreaches in television, radio, print and Internet communications.



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio - "Feast of Faith" -- Dr. D'Ambrosio is a specialist in the interpretation of sacred Scripture and tradition. His teaching covers a broad range of subjects from historical, dogmatic, and sacramental theology to evangelization. (also will speak in Hispanic Track)



Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa - "Stay With Us" -- Fr. Cantalamessa was appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II and continues to serve as official "Homilist to the Papal Household." (also will speak in Hispanic Track)

Hispanic Track



Dr. Dora Tobar - "Hostias Viva Para Un Mundo Con Hambre" -- Dr. Tobar is a professor of theology at Catholic University of America who specializes in leading spiritual retreats around the nation.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (see topic above)

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa (see topic above)

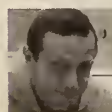
Teen Track



Fr. Francis Mary Stone, M.F.V.A. - "The Extreme Make-Over: Putting on the Armor of Christ" -- Fr. Stone, who appears frequently on EWTN, is a down-to-earth former financier and jock turned priest who leads young people to Christ.



Fr. Leo Patalinghug, S.T.L. - "Spiritual Combat" -- Fr. Patalinghug entertains and inspires young people with break-dancing and karate, which he compares to a spiritual battle. His message: "God is calling every one of you to do something."



Fr. Antoine Thomas - "Why Stay With Jesus?" -- Fr. Thomas understands how youth can embrace and be enriched by spending time with the Blessed Sacrament in schools and parishes; he also shares what adults can do to encourage the practice.



Charlie Aeschliman - "Basketball and Eucharistic Strength" -- Mr. Aeschliman is a former elite Navy S.E.A.L. and Basketball Handling Champion who presents a unique, fast-paced and fun character building talk.

Children's Track (Kindergarten through fifth grade)



Ken Doran - "Stories of Hope: How God Works Wonders!" -- A dynamic and creative teacher, Ken's approach is age-appropriate and fun for all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

Free and open to all www.GoEucharist.com

Roman Catholic
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
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Special four-page pullout
guide to the Eucharistic
Congress

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 41

From hurricane to hope

N.C. CATHOLICS AID HURRICANE
KATRINA VICTIMS NEAR AND FAR

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Hurricane Katrina left in her Category 4 wake as many as 1 million people without homes, jobs or schools.

As great as the need is, Americans, including many in the Diocese of Charlotte, have responded with overwhelming swiftness and generosity.

As of Sept. 6, more than 145,000 evacuees were being housed by the American Red Cross in 580 shelters in 17 states. Hundreds of evacuees have arrived over the past several days in North Carolina.

See KATRINA, page 5



STAFF PHOTO

Trey Katner-Grass (left), whose family took refuge in Charlotte last week, gets acquainted with his new classmates at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. The New Orleans home that the Katner-Grasses had moved into less than a month ago was under water.

SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE
**Eucharistic
Congress offers
prayer, reflection,
stewardship
opportunities**

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — The first Eucharistic Congress of the Diocese of Charlotte will be a time of prayer, contemplation and stewardship.

Thousands of Catholics from throughout the Carolinas and as far away as Florida and Maryland are expected to attend the events in and around the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 23-24.

A highlight of the congress will be the eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte. The monstrance to be carried by Bishop Peter J. Jugis was

See CONGRESS, page 6

SHINING FORTH

Many gather for anniversary of St. Mary Church

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

SYLVA — As Bishop Peter J. Jugis spoke about Christ as the light of the world, St. Mary Church brightened as sunlight flooded in, like a blessing on the church's 50th-anniversary celebration.

Just 50 years ago to the day, on Aug. 30, 1955, and 16 years before the Diocese of Charlotte was established, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated St. Mary Church.

See ANNIVERSARY, page 13

'Many hands make Mercy'

New Our Lady of Mercy Church dedicated

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — There's a saying that is often heard around Our Lady of Mercy Church: "Many hands make mercy." With the unveiling of the parish's new church, that phrase is certainly true.

Not only did the parish commit to raising the \$9.7 million needed for construction of a new church and renovation of Our Lady of Mercy School, much of the church's adornments were donated or made by its parishioners.

"This is a parish where people like to get involved ... not sitting back and letting others do things," said Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor.

When Bishop Peter J. Jugis led a procession of nearly 1,000 parishioners into the new 750-seat church Aug. 28, the work of Our Lady of Mercy's devoted parishioners could be seen throughout the church.

The hardwood floor of the sanctuary was donated and laid

See MERCY, page 11



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church exchange the sign of peace during the dedication Mass Aug. 28.

Vocations

Five new seminarians; priests/
seminarians gather for cookout

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Culture Watch

Scripture readings; nun protests
'Da Vinci Code' movie

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Perspectives

End-of-life issues, part 2;
unborn pain; Question Corner

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

BEADING FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

John Rapp, a parishioner of St. John of Rochester Church in Fairport, N.Y., repairs rosaries in the basement workshop of his Perinton home July 13. Rapp has been volunteering to repair and restore rosaries for five Rochester-area parishes over the last three years.

Rochester man is unofficial rosary repairman for five parishes

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Members of St. Patrick's Church in Victor occasionally leave their old, broken rosaries at the parish office. Although these rosaries may be tarnished and missing links or crucifixes, they are treasured nonetheless and often have a great deal of sentimental value and memories attached to them.

John Rapp will stop by, pick up the rosaries and bring them to his home. There he'll fix whatever is wrong with them before returning them to the parish office, where their owners reclaim them.

"This is something I do because I feel it should be done," said Rapp, who belongs to St. John of Rochester Church in Fairport. "I felt there was a need for it, and I want to encourage people to use and say the rosary as requested by Our Lady of Fatima."

Many Catholics cherish their rosaries because they were a gift from a loved one or handed down from previous generations, Rapp said.

For this reason, Rapp began repairing rosaries for Rochester-area Catholics in September 2002. He is now the unofficial rosary repairman for his own parish

and four others.

Every so often — especially around May and October — these parishes will run small announcements letting parishioners know they can bring broken rosaries to the parish offices. The announcement also asks parishioners to donate rosaries to be used for parts.

Although Rapp has heard about a number of parish groups that make new rosaries, he's not aware of anyone else in the diocese who repairs them, a fact he'd like to change. In fact, Rapp said he's willing to teach his craft to anyone who's interested and committed to repairing rosaries at his or her parish.

"This is not a hobby; it's a commitment. They're taking on the job of repairing all the broken rosaries of their parish, not this week and next week, but on and on and on," he said.

Rapp has repaired between 150 and 200 rosaries since he took on this commitment nearly three years ago. There have been instances where he's had six rosaries to work on in his house at one time.

In the past three years Rapp has picked up several helpful techniques.

"If all else fails then I go to the bead store," he said.

Catholic official calls number of uninsured a 'moral injustice'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of people without health insurance is "a moral injustice that must end," said Michael Rodgers, interim president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, commenting on newly released U.S. Census Bureau figures.

The bureau's annual report on income, poverty and health insurance coverage, released Aug. 30, showed that the nation's poverty rate increased for the fourth year in a row, from 35.9 million people in 2003 to 37 million people in 2004.

Last year, the number of people without health insurance was 45.8 million, an increase of 800,000 from the previous year, but the percentage of people without health insurance remained at 15.7 percent.

Rodgers said the overall increase in the uninsured is particularly "unconscionable" because he said many of the newly uninsured are infants and toddlers.

According to the report, poverty rates increased for non-Hispanic whites but not for any other ethnic group. The percentage of whites in poverty rose from 8.2 percent in 2003 to 8.6 percent. African-Americans, with a 24.7 percent poverty rate, and Hispanics, with a 21.9 percent poverty rate, saw no change. Poverty levels for Asian-Americans dropped by two percentage points to 9.8 percent.

The report also showed the median household income for last year was \$44,389, down slightly from the 2003 level of \$44,482.

Thomas Chabolla, associate director of programs for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development, said the Census Bureau's data "demonstrates the many dimensions of poverty," not just wages and income.

The CCHD has invested more than \$270 million in about 4,000 organizations in the past 35 years.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oration of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Drive* will take place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Sept. 11, 8:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. in the family room of the Parish Center. To register, call Ed Nenninger at (704) 366-6637.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you beg God's mercy on our hurting world Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Also, we will celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. Both events take place at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

CHARLOTTE — The *Arthritis Support Group* will meet Sept. 13, 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the Ministry Center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Dr. John Babick will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Gail at (704) 847-5280.

CHARLOTTE — It took a village to save a child from the Holocaust. Julie Chenkin will share her remarkable story of her childhood escape from the Holocaust, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Susan Krasniewski at (704)

364-5431, ext. 210.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* will meet Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

CHARLOTTE — The *Society of Mary and Martha* meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheiser at (704) 588-7311.

MINT HILL — *G.E.M.S. Daily* is a prayer/support group for mothers of children with disabilities. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., to share concerns, praise and prayers. For details, call Michelle Roth at (704) 321-1717.

CHARLOTTE — The *Healing Prayer Group* will pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus for your healing, be it mental, spiritual or physical. Come and know the gentleness and unconditional love of the Lord. We meet the third Monday of each month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope to send envoy to U.S. to show solidarity with Katrina's victims

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — As a sign of his personal solidarity, Pope Benedict XVI is sending the Vatican's top humanitarian aid official to visit the populations stricken by Hurricane Katrina.

Archbishop Paul Cordes, president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," was to travel to the Gulf Coast region Sept. 10 or 11, his office said. Details of his mission were not immediately available.

"Cor Unum" is responsible for promoting and coordinating Catholic charitable projects around the world, and Archbishop Cordes was expected to meet with church-run agencies involved in the Gulf Coast region.

The pope announced the move at a Sunday blessing Sept. 4 at his residence outside Rome. For the second time in a week, he expressed his deep concern at

the tragedy and asked for prayers for the victims.

"In a special way our hearts turn to all those suffering the devastating consequences of Hurricane Katrina in the United States," the pope said, speaking in English.

"As the extent of this tragedy unfolds, I ask you to join me in praying for the victims, their loved ones and all those affected. May the grieving families experience the consolation of God's presence and rescue workers be assured of our deep concern and support," he said.

The pope said he was praying for all those affected by the hurricane and its aftermath: the dead and their families, the injured, the homeless, the sick, children and the elderly. He offered a special blessing to all those involved in relief and rebuilding efforts.

Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 4145 Johnson St., is offering a free eight-week *Spanish Class* beginning Sept. 15. Classes meet Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 869-7739 or e-mail Larry Kwan at hlkw@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will start its 2005-2006 fiscal year with a luncheon Sept. 28, at Cardinal Country Club, 4108 Windlestraw Ln. The speaker will be Rosemary Plybon, "The Good Morning Show" anchor for WFMY News 2. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the next Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will host *Personal Foundation Program with Rosemary Santillo*, a professional life and business coach. The free sessions will take place Sept. 14 and 28 and Oct. 5 and 19. Attend all sessions or just come for one that sparks your interest. To register, call the Faith Formation office at (704) 664-7762 or email dconklin@sainttherese.net. For more information about Rosemary Santillo and her programs, visit Coaching at Reflection Rock www.reflectionrock.com.

MOORESVILLE — As part of the St. Therese Church *Guest Speaker Series*, Bill Martin will speak about Islam and Mohammed, including his background, beliefs and biases, Sept. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Family Room of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

More than 400 experts to attend Vatican conference on Scripture

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 400 biblical experts from 98 countries are expected to attend a Vatican-sponsored conference in September to commemorate the Second Vatican Council's document on Scripture and revelation.

The Sept. 14-18 encounter in Rome will feature formal presentations and discussions on the theme, "Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church." In addition to Catholic experts, representatives of other Christian churches and other religions also have been invited, the Vatican said Sept. 1.

Participants will attend an audience with Pope Benedict XVI, who attended the council as a theological expert and had a key role in the preparatory discussions on the revelation document.

Published in November 1965, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation ("Dei Verbum") said the church depends on both Scripture and tradition as the one deposit of the faith. It encouraged biblical reading for all members of the church as an essential spiritual resource.

The purpose of the conference is not retrospective, but will instead aim to trace a "critical panorama" of the current

situation, identifying current challenges and problems, the Vatican said. The overall goal is to promote awareness of the importance of the Bible and biblical studies in the modern church.

Participants will include cardinals and bishops, scholars and other experts, as well as members of church organizations that focus on the Bible and biblical studies in their work.

Among the topics for discussion are biblical exegesis, the Bible in catechesis and liturgy, ecumenical dialogue, relations with Judaism and interreligious dialogue, new religious movements and the challenge of fundamentalism, and justice and peace in a globalized world.

The conference was being co-sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Catholic Bible Federation.

Among those addressing the encounter will be Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Christian unity council; Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, retired archbishop of Milan, Italy, and a noted biblicalist; and Archbishop John Olorunfemi Olayinka of Abuja, Nigeria, president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar.

Papal meeting



PHOTO COURTESY BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop Peter J. Jugis during the bishop's trip to the Vatican June 26-July 1. Bishop Jugis had accompanied Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta to a solemn ceremony at which the pope welcomed 32 new archbishops from 22 countries and gave them each a pallium, a circular band of white wool marked with six black crosses. The pallium is worn over the shoulders and symbolizes the archbishop's authority and unity with the pope.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

September 11-12 — USCCB Priestly Life and Ministry Committee meeting Washington, D.C.

Sept. 13 — 11 a.m. Presbyteral Council Meeting, Charlotte

Sept. 17 — 5 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Sept. 23-24 Eucharistic Congress Charlotte Convention Center

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COURTESY PHOTO

Priests and seminarians gather for cookout

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. Joseph Kerin, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, chats with seminarians for the diocese.

Approximately 50 priests and seminarians gathered with Bishop Peter J. Jugis for a cookout and social in Charlotte Aug. 15.

The gathering was a result of the Presbyteral Council's interest in getting to know the 18 seminarians currently studying to serve in the Diocese of Charlotte. Sixteen seminarians were able to attend the event, planned by Father John Putnam, then-acting director of vocations.

After evening prayer at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, the priests and seminarians went to Bishop Jugis' residence for the cookout. Knights of Columbus from St. Mark Church in Huntersville prepared the food.



The Office of Justice and Peace
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

presents

The Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia II – “Environmental Justice and Living Sustainably”

Friday, Oct. 21, (starts at 7 PM) & Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005
Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, NC

This conference will build on the framework of exploring issues raised in the pastoral letters of the U.S. Bishops of Appalachia, *This Land is Home to Me* and *At Home in the Web of Life* as offered in the first Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia (Oct. 2003)

Information presented in the 3 plenary presentations and 6 workshops include:

- Catholic Social Teaching on respect for God's creation and environmental justice
- Sustainable agricultural, land use and energy use practices
- The link between sustainable economic development and environmental justice

First Plenary Presenter (Friday evening): Anthony Flaccavento
Executive Director, Appalachian Sustainable Development, Abingdon, VA

Second Plenary Presenter (Saturday morning): Sr. Clare McBrien, RSHM
Ecological Educator, Appalachian Office of Justice & Peace, Diocese of Richmond, VA

Third Plenary Presenter (Saturday afternoon): Dr. Robert Gronski
Policy Coordinator, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

Conference Fee - \$55 per person (Fee includes Saturday breakfast & lunch; Fee does not include lodging. Attendees must make own lodging arrangements with LWCRC or area hotels). The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center phone number is 828-926-3833.

Conference participation is limited to 80 Attendees.

For information please contact: The Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 / Ph: 704-370-3225 / Email: justicepeace@charlottediocese.org

A registration form can be found at: www.cssnc.org/justicepeace

A NEW JOURNEY

Five men begin seminary studies for diocese

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte has accepted five young men to begin seminary studies this fall.

Two of the candidates, Jason Christian and Carson Wilkie, will enter the college seminary program at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Richard Worthington and Benjamin Roberts will begin pre-theology and theology studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa., and Tri Vinh Truong will study theology at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Christian, 22, is a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. Prior to being accepted for seminary formation, he studied at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and worked as a computer technician.

Wilkie, 20, is a member of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville and began considering a priestly vocation through Catholic campus ministry at Western Carolina University in

Cullowhee, where he has been studying history for the past two years.

Worthington, 28, is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. Prior to being accepted for seminary formation, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and served in the U.S. Navy.

Roberts, 28, is a parishioner of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville. Prior to being accepted for seminary formation, he studied at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory and was a novice for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Truong, 31, is a member of St. Joseph's Vietnamese Church in Charlotte. A native of Vietnam, he studied at St. John's University in New York and St. Xavier University in Chicago. He is transferring to the Diocese from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit

www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html

WRITERS SOUGHT

Last call for manuscripts!



The Diocese of Charlotte will publish a commemorative book for its upcoming 35th anniversary. Spiritual reflections of 250 to 1,000 words on a variety of topics are sought.

Visit "writers sought" on Diocese homepage at www.Charlottediocese.org for a list of reflection topics and submission information or write for guidelines to:

David Hains, Director of Communication, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors



TWO DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Thursday, Oct. 13th - St. Mark, Huntersville - 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter: Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, Pastor, St. Pius X Church

Mass Celebrant: Bishop Peter Jugis

** Deadline to register: Oct. 6th

Thursday, Oct. 20th - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory - 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Ed Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church

** Deadline to register: Oct. 11

Cost: \$10 - includes coffee and pastries, and full lunch

Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry,

1123 S. Church St.,
Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

For more information call: Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

N.C. Catholics aid Katrina victims

KATRINA, from page 1

Help from the home front

Parishes and schools in the Diocese of Charlotte have jumped into action to help thousands of displaced Gulf Coast residents.

Just one week after the devastating storm, more than \$10,300 had been raised by the students of St. Pius X, St. Patrick, St. Matthew, St. Gabriel and Charlotte Catholic High schools.

"We will be assisting at Habitat for Humanity to pre-build homes at their local warehouse, which will be shipped to the disaster areas after clean-up is finished," said Mary Jane Dawson, campus minister at Charlotte Catholic High School.

At St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, students and families raised \$11,000 for the Red Cross and collected items for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro has collected \$12,000.

"Our St. Vincent de Paul Society and Knights of Columbus have offered their assistance to any family who has relocated to the area to fill whatever needs they have," said Father James Ebright, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church.

An anonymous donor presented a check for \$10,000 to Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church.

A family of four children has already been enrolled at St. Pius X School tuition-free. Their father, a contractor, stayed behind in Gulfport, Miss. to assist in the recovery effort, while they came to Greensboro with their mother, whose sister is a parishioner of St. Pius X.

During the opening-of-school Mass at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, the campus ministry program organized a collection to assist the hurricane victims. Also, the Peer Ministers distributed collection jars at the first home football game and will implement the "Child to Child" campaign to support efforts from the diocese.

According to Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, \$9,000 has been collected for the Red Cross.



STAFF PHOTO

Nancy Churchill and Shawn Finley sort and pack donations bound for Hattiesburg, Miss. Several parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte helped address the needs of Hurricane Katrina victims by collecting essentials. Parishes and individuals wishing to donate essential items are asked to partner with disaster relief agencies to determine how best to help.

More than \$21,000 has been collected at St. Therese Church in Mooresville for Catholic Charities USA.

"In the Asheville Vicariate we, as a vicariate, have cooperated with the Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services to coordinate the relief efforts,"

said Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. "Housing, food distribution and counseling are being coordinated."

The students of Asheville Catholic School have been collecting goods for Hearts With Hands, a Christian humanitarian organization that aids victims of poverty, natural disaster or famine.

Several parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral helped collect supplies for victims in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Back to class for displaced students

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools are offering places to children displaced by Katrina. Families can register children at any MACS school. Application and tuition fees will be waived, and students

will be given books and uniforms.

Displaced students have already been enrolled at Our Lady of Grace, St. Matthew and Holy Trinity Middle schools.

Starting over in Charlotte

Jane Katner-Grass, her husband Glenn and their three children, Trey, 14; Phoebe, 12; and Adam, 10; took refuge in Charlotte last week. The New Orleans home that they had moved into less than a month ago was under water. Their possessions are either inaccessible or ruined. Although somber at their loss, Katner-Grass looked on the bright side.

"We are just glad to be alive, and we are thankful that our families are safe," she said.

The children were enrolled in Catholic schools on Sept. 6. The Katner-Grass family plans to stay in the Charlotte area until the end of the school year.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For details on enrolling displaced students in MACS schools, call (704) 370-3273.

HOW TO HELP

During the early stages of disasters, money is typically the most valuable resource needed by response and relief professionals. Cash donations allow agencies to buy what is needed and avoid the complicated, costly and time-consuming process of collecting, sorting, transporting and distributing material goods.

For this reason, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Charlotte is responding to this need by collecting funds to be used in short- and long-term recovery efforts in the affected areas. If you wish to donate, please respond to parish initiatives, making checks payable to your parish (clearly marking the check "Disaster Relief"). Alternatively, you may mail your donation to:

**Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
Disaster Relief
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203-4003**

In many cities throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, local agencies experienced in disaster response such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army are working hard to meet the immediate needs of evacuees. Parishes and individuals wishing to donate essential items such as food, water, medical supplies and clothing are asked to partner with disaster agencies, news media outlets and community groups. The long-term housing solutions for evacuees are currently being evaluated by civic and community leaders throughout the Diocese. Individuals wishing to respond to these needs are asked to be attentive to lead relief agencies to determine how best to help.

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St. Patrick's Parishioners

Ecce Agnus Dei

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 24

In the past few weeks, we have discussed several short rites that compose the Communion Rite. Thus far we have inspected the Lord's Prayer and the Rite of Peace. This time, let us finish our examination of these rites that prepare and dispose us to receive holy Communion.

Following the Rite of Peace is a subtle yet highly significant act called the Fraction Rite. The celebrant, following the example of our Lord, now takes up the consecrated host and reverently fractures it. Although this action is accomplished without drama or commentary, it bears great significance in the history and tradition of the Mass.

All of the sacred writers of the New Testament affirm that Christ took bread and broke it when he offered the sacrifice of the Last Supper. After his resurrection, he was recognized by his disciples "in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35). And the Acts of the Apostles testifies that the early church continued "the breaking of the bread" faithfully each day (Acts 2:46).

To the present day, the church continues "the breaking of the bread" precisely because Christ instructed his Apostles to, "Do this in memory of me." But why does Christ break the bread?

Certainly it was Jewish custom to break bread with one's relatives and friends as an act of charity. And ancient custom dictated that breaking bread was appropriate, rather than slicing it with a knife.

But perhaps more important is the spiritual significance of breaking the bread that not only represented Christ's body, but sacramentally becomes his body, which was pierced and nailed to the cross.

A fragment of the broken host is then placed into the chalice, a gesture called "the commingling." The origin of this custom is not certain, but there are a number of possible explanations.

Centuries ago there was the custom of taking pieces of the consecrated host from the Mass offered by the bishop of a diocese and distributing them to the various parishes in his diocese. The priest would then place the fragment into his chalice signifying unity with the local bishop.

It is also probable that this commingling of the body and blood of Christ has a more spiritual explanation. The consecration of the Mass occurs in two separate consecrations: first the bread, then the wine. Since this separate consecra-

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



tion symbolically represents death, as our Lord's blood was separated from his body, uniting and commingling the body and blood of Christ in the chalice would symbolically represent the resurrection, the re-union of Christ's body and blood.

The celebrant recites a prayer in silence during this commingling: "May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it."

Meanwhile, the Agnus Dei is recited or sung. At first, the breaking of the bread was done in silence. But in the seventh century, Pope St. Sergius established the chanting of this hymn, which had been familiar to him since his childhood.

The Agnus Dei, or "Lamb of God" as a title of our Lord, is most appropriate at this point in the Mass. In the Old Testament, the "lamb of God" was slaughtered for the Passover feast and saved the Israelites from the angel of death. St. John the Baptist saw Jesus walking toward him on the banks of the river Jordan and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

And the evangelist, St. John, recorded his visions in the Book of Revelation of the slain Lamb, Jesus Christ, who was glorious and victorious in heaven.

After the priest has completed his private preparatory prayers, he genuflects and raises the host above the paten or chalice and recites the words of St. John the Baptist, "Ecce Agnus Dei..." that is (according to our current translation), "This is the Lamb of God...."

We must pause for a moment, look, adore and behold him, who alone takes away the sins of the world. It is not mere bread or a symbol, but the same Lord who once walked along the banks of the river Jordan.

Indeed, "Happy are those who are called to his supper" (Revelation 19:9).

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Congress offers much for people of diocese

CONGRESS, from page 1

blessed by the late Pope John Paul II to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Speakers at the congress include Jim Caviezel, the actor who portrayed Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ"; Scott Hahn, a professor of theology and Scripture; and Father Leo Patalinghug, a priest who uses martial arts to convey his spiritual message.

In addition to four tracks of speakers — for adults in both English and Spanish and for children and teens — eucharistic adoration and confession will be available at the Charlotte Convention Center throughout the congress.

Vendors will sell rosaries and other religious materials. Religious orders and diocesan Catholic schools will offer information.

Stewardship opportunities

To help coordinate and assist many of the activities, volunteers from the Diocese of Charlotte are needed. Volunteer positions include ushers, catechists and hospitality coordinators.

"As Christian stewards we are asked

to look at the many ways God has blessed us and respond with a proportionate gift of our time and financial resources," said Jim Kelley, development director for the Diocese of Charlotte and a member of the Eucharistic Congress committee.

"The Eucharistic Congress provides a wonderful means of giving of our time through volunteer opportunities and of our treasure through a financial contribution," said Kelley.

Collections will be taken during the congress to help defray the costs of renting the Charlotte Convention Center, honorariums and travel arrangements for the speakers and providing printed materials.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

WANT TO HELP?

To volunteer, fill out the online form at www.goeucharist.com. Volunteer training sessions will be held Friday, Sept. 23.

To donate, visit the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org and click "Opportunities for Giving."

For all Charlotte Diocese Clergy, Religious and Lay Educators - "Vatican Council II After Forty Years"

Fellowship of Catholic Scholars

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September 23-25, 2005

Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel, Charlotte
2800 Coliseum Centre Drive

Topics include:

- * Friday, 2 pm - Gaudium et Spes's Vision of the Moral Life
- * Friday, 4 pm - The Christian Anthropology of Vatican II and Virtual Reality
- * Friday, 7:30 pm - Keynote: Vatican II Today: Forty Years Later
Reverend Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M. Cap., Ph.D., Executive Director, Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- * Saturday, 9 am - Christian Anthropology and Contemporary Psychological Studies
- * Saturday, 10:30 am - Lumen Gentium: The Once and Future Constitution
- * Saturday, 1:30 pm - Dei Verbum: Sacred Scripture since Vatican II
- * Saturday, 3:00 pm - Dignitatus Humanae: Religious Liberty and American Foreign Policy

Saturday, 6:30 pm - Cardinal Wright Award Dinner

Cardinal Wright Award to Gerard V. Bradley, J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School
Cardinal O'Boyle Award to Helen Hull Hitchcock, President, Women for Faith and Family, and Editor, Adoremus Bulletin

* Sunday, 8:30 am - Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D., Bishop of Charlotte

* Sunday, 9:45 am - Unitatis Redintegratio: Providential Turn or Historic Mistake?

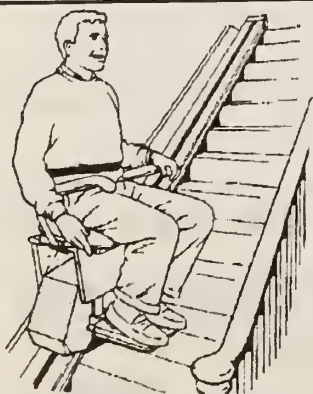


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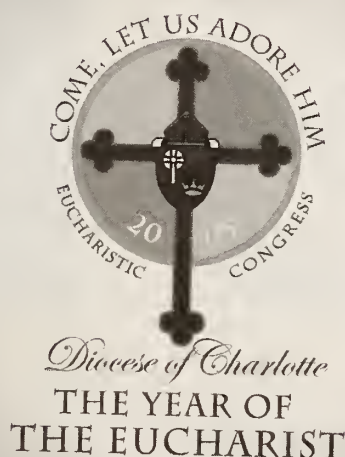
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First Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

September 23-24

Charlotte Convention Center



www.GoEucharist.com

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Pope John Paul II proclaimed October 2004 through October 2005 as the Year of the Eucharist, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Friday, Sept. 23, through Saturday, Sept. 24.

This historic event, a first for the Diocese of Charlotte, will be a wonderful celebration of engaging speakers, heartfelt prayer and exultant rejoicing at the Charlotte Convention Center.

This four-page guide contains an itinerary of speakers and activities, a map detailing the route of the eucharistic procession and other useful information.

In his December 2004 letter to the Catholics of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Peter J. Jugis announced that the Eucharistic Congress would take place in Charlotte and asked the faithful to put aside the dates to attend.

"This will be a time of celebration, adoration and teaching centered on the mystery of the Eucharist," said Bishop Jugis.

Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus Christ that is transubstantiated from bread and wine at the celebration of Mass.

On Friday, Sept. 23, the Congress will feature a concert of sacred choral music, Eucharistic adoration and a talk by actor

Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in the film "The Passion of the Christ."

On Saturday, Sept. 24, a procession of clergy, youths, Catholic organizations and members from every parish and mission in the diocese will walk behind the Eucharist as it is carried through the streets of uptown Charlotte. Everyone attending the congress is invited to participate in the procession.

A monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II will be carried by Bishop Jugis during the procession.

After the procession, a program of seminars, speakers and activities for adults, children and youth is planned for the Charlotte Convention Center. Programs celebrating the diversity of cultures present in the diocese will also be presented. The Eucharistic Congress concludes with a Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Bishop Jugis' letter urges Catholics to give primary importance to participation each Sunday in the celebration of Mass and to consider spending some time in eucharistic adoration outside Mass.

To watch and participate in the Eucharistic Procession

THE PROCESSION ROUTE

The eucharistic procession, led by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon Street.

The procession will head north on Tryon Street for two blocks, then turn east onto Third Street for one block.

The procession will then turn south onto College Street for one block, then turn east onto Second Street to the Charlotte Convention Center entrance.

People of the Diocese of Charlotte are encouraged to line the procession route to watch the eucharistic procession.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESSION

As the Blessed Sacrament comes near, it is the custom to become quiet and kneel until the monstrance passes.

After the Blessed Sacrament passes by, look for your parish's banner. When your parish banner passes by, you may fall in along with your parish to join in the procession. Once you have connected with your parish group, simply join in the communal prayers or just pray silently as the procession moves along.

Once the procession arrives at the Charlotte Convention Center, move to any open door, as directed by the ushers, and enter the main hall. Proceed to the seating area and fill in as best as possible, joining in the singing until the beginning of the Holy Hour.

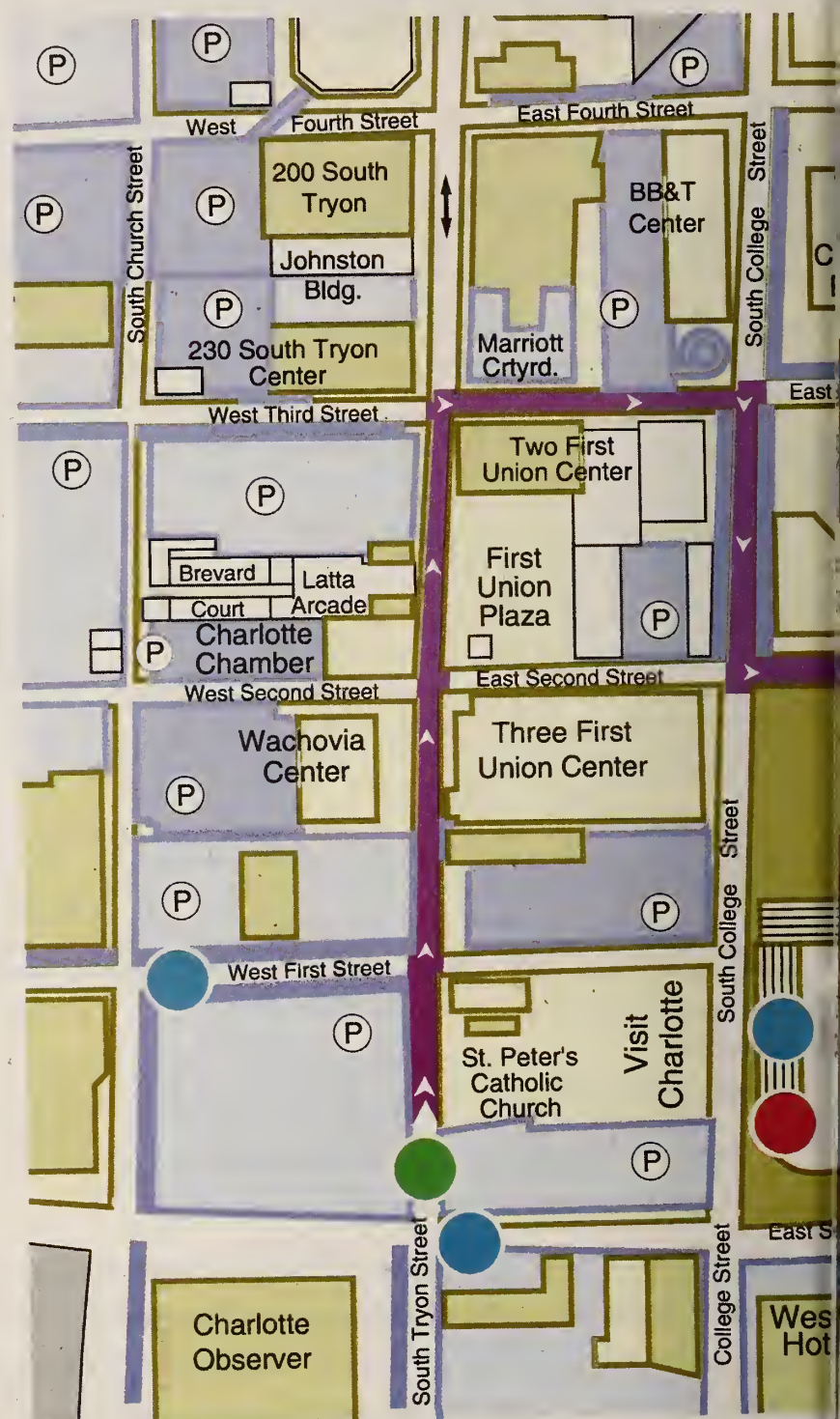
BANNER CARRIERS IN THE PROCESSION

The eucharistic procession will begin lining up in front of St. Peter Church at 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Banner stands can be dropped off at the Charlotte Convention Center on Friday afternoon from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday morning before 7:30 a.m.

Parishes are asked to have their banners, along with 10 representatives from the parish, line up along Tryon Street south of the altar that will be placed in front of St. Peter Church (Procession Staging Area). Other members of the parishes are asked to line the procession route (see above).

Route of the Eucharistic Procession



Frequently Asked Questions about the Eucharistic Congress

What is the Eucharistic Congress?

The Eucharistic Congress is a teaching and worship event that is centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic life. The Congress begins Friday evening, Sept. 23, with a concert of sacred choral music and a talk by actor Jim Caviezel at the Charlotte Convention Center. After the program, the Eucharist will be available for adoration throughout the night at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East.

The events on Saturday, Sept. 24, begin at 8 a.m. with a procession of the Eucharist from St. Peter Church on S. Tryon Street to the Charlotte Convention Center. After adoration and a homily, participants in the Congress will have the opportunity to hear a variety of inspiring speakers. Programs, or "tracks," are designed for different audiences: General, Hispanic, Children and Teens.

During the day, the Eucharist will be available for adoration in a special chapel in the Charlotte Convention Center. Priests will be available for confessions all day and there will be an area for vendors selling

religious merchandise and offering information about Catholic schools, vocations, etc.

The Congress concludes with a Vigil Mass that begins at 4:30 p.m.

Where does the idea for a Eucharistic Congress come from?

The first Eucharistic Congress was held in Lille, France in 1881 under the direction of Msgr. Gaston De Se'gue. In time, Eucharistic Congresses developed to their present international character. The Congress of 1908, which met in London, was the first occasion on which a representative of the pope had entered England since the Protestant Reformation. Two international Eucharistic Congresses were held in the United States — Chicago in 1926 and Philadelphia in 1976.

Who is allowed to take part in the procession?

Everyone. Leading the procession will be altar servers, organized societies including the Knights of Columbus, clergy and most

importantly, the Eucharist. Following the Eucharist will be banner carriers representing churches, schools and organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte. The faithful are invited to join the procession as the banner for their church or organization passes by.

What if it rains?

The Congress will be held rain or shine. The procession may be moved into the Charlotte Convention Center depending on the weather.

Where can I park?

There is ample parking around the Charlotte Convention Center and in uptown Charlotte. Since the Congress takes place on a weekend, traffic will be minimal.

What age children will be able to

participate in the Children's Track?

Children from kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome to participate in the Children's Track. All children in the Children's Track must be registered. Registration forms are available online at www.goeucharist.com, through individual parishes or can be filled out at the Convention Center.

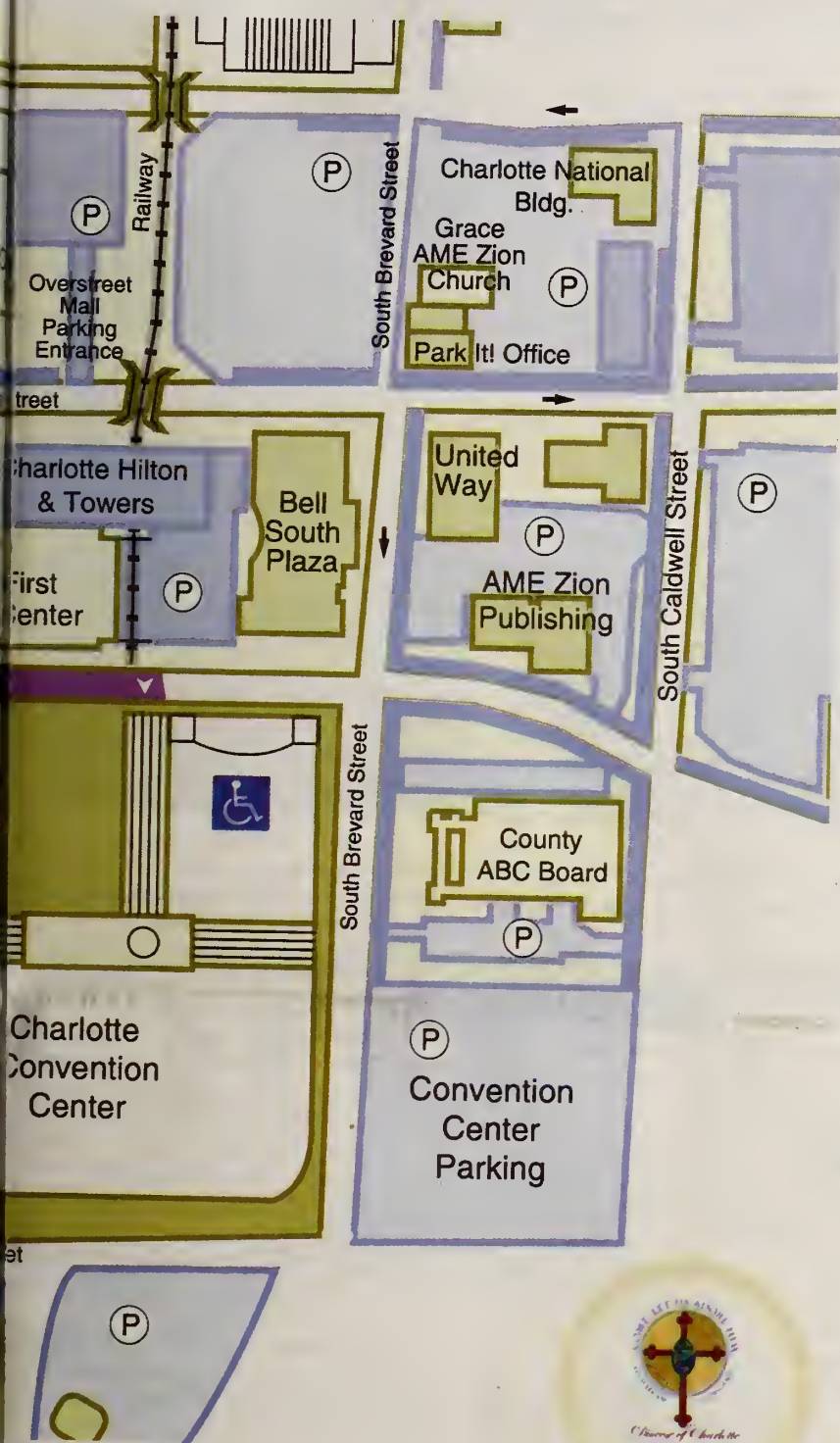
Seating in the Children's Track will be limited. Children in the Children's Track will be involved in age-appropriate activities and will be served lunch.

What is being done to provide a secure environment for the children?

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" as adopted by the U.S. bishops.

All adult volunteers at the Congress who will

Procession through Charlotte



Directions to the Eucharistic Congress

Directions from Interstate 77

At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd
 At exit 9C, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp
 At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 [US-74]
 I-277 / US-74 / John Belk Frwy
 Turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 College St / Caldwell St / Downtown
 Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St
 College St / Downtown
 Arrive Charlotte Convention Center [501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202, (704) 339-6000]

Directions from Interstate 85 North

At exit 36 of Interstate 85 North, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 NC-16 / Brookshire Blvd / US-74 E / Downtown
 Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-16 [Brookshire Blvd]
 NC-16 / Charlotte / Bank of America Stadium
 Road name changes to I-277 [SR-16]
 At exit 1E, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 Stonewall St / South Blvd / Kenilworth Ave
 Keep RIGHT to stay on Ramp
 Stonewall St / Kenilworth Ave
 Turn LEFT (North-West) onto E Stonewall St
 Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto S College St
 Arrive Charlotte Convention Center [501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202, (704) 339-6000]

Directions from Interstate 85 South

At exit 38 of Interstate 85 South, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 I-77 / US-21 / Statesville / Columbia
 Take Ramp (LEFT) onto I-77 [US-21]
 I-77 / US-21 / Columbia
 At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd
 At exit 9C, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp
 At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 [US-74]
 I-277 / US-74 / John Belk Frwy
 Turn RIGHT onto Ramp
 College St / Caldwell St / Downtown
 Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St
 College St / Downtown
 Arrive Charlotte Convention Center [501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202, (704) 339-6000]

have supervisory contact with children will be required to attend the diocesan training, "Protecting God's Children." Background checks will also be performed on any adult having supervisory contact with children.

What if I am handicapped or unable to walk in the procession?

The Charlotte Convention Center is handicapped-accessible. In addition, handicapped individuals and those who choose to not walk in the procession are invited to witness the procession from the balcony of the Convention Center. Music and clergy will be available in this location until the eucharistic procession arrives.

Will there be a Mass at the Eucharistic Congress?

Yes. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Is there a fee to attend the Congress?

There is no charge for any of the events associated with the Eucharistic Congress. Everyone who desires a closer relationship to the Eucharist is encouraged to attend and participate. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting contributions to defray the cost of staging the congress. To donate, visit www.GoEucharist.com.

Will food be served?

The Charlotte Convention Center will offer a variety of foods for sale throughout the day. Lunch will be provided for the children and youths attending the Children's and Teen Tracks at no charge.

Before and after the congress attendees may want to take advantage of the many restaurants, hotels and attractions that are within easy walking distance of the Convention Center.



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PROCESSION ROUTE



PROCESSION STAGING AREA & PROCESSION CHECK-IN

Eucharistic Congress Panel of Speakers

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

James Caviezel

actor best known for his portrayal of Jesus in Mel Gibson's, "The Passion of the Christ"

Kerri Caviezel

James' wife and a dynamic speaker in her own right, will speak about faith

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, a Charlotte native and the fourth bishop of Charlotte, will offer welcoming remarks at the conclusion of the Saturday morning Eucharistic Holy Hour.

Bishop William G. Curlin, who retired as bishop of Charlotte in 2002, will deliver the homily during the Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction on Saturday morning.

GENERAL TRACK, SATURDAY

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa: "Stay With Us"
preacher to the pontifical household

Dr. Scott Hahn: "The Lamb's Supper"

professor of theology and Scripture at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio; founder/director of St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology

Johnnette S. Benkovic: "In His Eucharistic Heart"

Catholic evangelization apostolate with outreaches in television, radio, print and Internet communications

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio: "Feast of Faith"

specialist in the interpretation of Scripture and tradition

HISPANIC TRACK, SATURDAY

Dr. Dora Tobar: "Living Hosts for a Hungry World"

Father Raniero Cantalamessa: "Stay With Us"

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio: "Feast of Faith"

TEEN TRACK, SATURDAY

Father Francis Mary Stone: "The Extreme Make-Over: Putting on the Armor of Christ"
host of the EWTN program "Life On The Rock"

Father Leo Patalinghug: "Spiritual Combat"

associate pastor of St. John Church in Westminster, Md., and spiritual director of the Cursillo Movement of Baltimore

Father Antoine Thomas: "Why Stay With Jesus?"

priest of the Congregation of St. John, in youth ministry for 15 years

Charlie Aeschliman: "Basketball and Eucharistic Strength"

former elite U.S. Navy S.E.A.L. and Basketball Handling Champion

CHILDREN'S TRACK, SATURDAY

Ken Doran: "Stories of Hope: How God Works Wonders!"
dynamic and creative teacher

Children's Track

Why should my child attend the Children's Track?

Through a variety of dynamic and fun-filled activities at the Eucharistic Congress, children will discover Christ in their everyday life. Children will also hear a special talk on the Eucharist during a special adoration session.

What age children will be able to participate in the Children's Track?

Children from kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome to participate in the Children's Track. All children in the Children's Track must be registered.

Registration forms are available online, through individual parishes or can be filled out at the Convention Center. Seating in the Children's Track will be limited. Children in the Children's Track will be involved in age-appropriate activities and will be served lunch.

What is being done to provide a secure environment for the children?

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People as adopted by the U.S. bishops. All adult volunteers at the Congress who will have supervisory contact with children are required to attend the diocesan training, "Protecting God's Children." Background checks also will be performed on any adult having supervisory contact with children.

Who is speaking at the Children's Track?

Ken Doran will present "Stories of Hope: How God Works Wonders!"

A dynamic and creative teacher, Doran's 26 years in catechetical ministry reflects broad experience on diocesan, school, and parish levels. His approach is age-appropriate and fun for all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

A sign of unity and a bond of charity

The Diocese of Charlotte is about to be blessed with the celebration of its first Eucharistic Congress.

In the years after the close of the Second Vatican Council, two documents from the Holy See addressed the concept of a Eucharistic Congress. In May 1967, the Sacred Congregation of Rites gave us an "Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery."

This instruction covered the sacrifice of the Mass, as well as the various ways in which the faithful express their worship of the holy Eucharist and "extend the grace of the sacrifice" outside of Mass: through adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle; processions of the Sacrament through the streets; exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; and Eucharistic Congresses.

In June 1973 the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship gave us an "Instruction on Holy Communion and the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside of Mass." In this instruction the congregation outlined the criteria that guide the celebration of a Eucharistic Congress: the celebration of the Eucharist is the center and high point of the congress; conferences and catechetical talks are held on the theme of the Eucharist; there is time for prayer and extended adoration during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; and the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession through the streets of the city.

All of these elements and more will be present at our own Eucharistic Congress as our diocese comes together to celebrate our faith in Christ and our love for the Lord.

Why did I, as bishop, call for a Eucharistic Congress? The idea for this pastoral initiative first presented itself late in the spring of 2004.

On June 12, 2004, two very successful conferences on the holy Eucharist were held in our diocese. These two events drew almost 1,000 people between them. The popularity of these two eucharistic conferences led to a desire to broaden the scope in order to embrace all the parishes of the diocese in a single Eucharistic Congress to celebrate the Year of the Eucharist.

The Congress will have the effect of strengthening the unity and the bond of charity of our growing local church.

The Second Vatican Council, in its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (n. 47), called the eucharistic sacrifice "a sign of unity" and "a bond of charity." The Eucharistic Congress will foster the unity and the bond of charity of our local

From the Bishop

BISHOP
PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF
CHARLOTTE



church. Every celebration of the Eucharist fosters our unity in Christ. Every Mass spiritually unites us to each other across the length and breadth of our diocese.

The Eucharistic Congress, however, will demonstrate in a very visible way the unity of our diocesan family, as parishioners and clergy and religious from every parish of the diocese come together in one place for a eucharistic procession, a Holy Hour of Exposition and Benediction, talks on various eucharistic themes and the celebration of Mass.

The holy Eucharist brings us together and makes us one body. The Eucharist renews and consolidates our incorporation into Christ and our belonging to one another, which began at our baptism.

The Eucharistic Congress will also foster the bond of charity within our local church. At the Last Supper, our Lord instituted the holy Eucharist as the living memorial of his sacrifice, the great love he showed us in laying down his life for his friends: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13).

He also told his disciples, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love" (Jn 15:9).

The love of Christ that is present in the sacrament of love, the Eucharist, flows from the altar and transforms us, and as a result we remain in his love as he said. It is this eucharistic love of Christ that we carry with us into the world to the poor, the sick, the heavily burdened and to everyone.

In this way we fulfill his command to "love one another as I love you" (Jn 15:12). The holy Eucharist strengthens the bond of charity in the church.

I look forward to seeing you at our Eucharistic Congress. These two days will produce abundant fruit of unity, charity and holiness for building up the body of Christ throughout our diocese.

May Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist be praised, adored and loved with grateful affection at every moment!

NOCTURNAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULED GROUPS



10:00	Families / Seniors of Diocese / Women Religious serving the Diocese
11:00	Teen and Young Adults
12:00	Deacons of the Diocese
1:00	Cursillo Men and Women
2:00	To be determined
3:00	Knights of Columbus
4:00	Adoration Society of Charlotte
5:00	Charlotte Catholic Women's Group
6:00	Priests of the Diocese



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Deacon Guy Piché and Msgr. Mauricio W. West stand beneath the 9-foot crucifix in the newly built Our Lady of Mercy Church during the dedication Mass Aug. 28.

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**For information, reservations, brochure and letter
from Father Bennett call 7 days a week:**

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Our Lady of Mercy dedicated

MERCY, from page 1

by parish members. All the sanctuary furnishings — from the altar to the lectern — were donated or made by the people of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Entering the church, parishioners were astonished at the 9-foot crucifix hanging on the wall behind the sanctuary. The 7-foot corpus weighs 250 pounds and the cross, which was carved in Germany and shipped to Winston-Salem, weighs 200 pounds.

Perhaps more remarkable than the size of the crucifix is the fact that it was hand-carved by an anonymous parishioner, who spent 600 hours at the task. Assembling and hanging the crucifix took four hours.

This same dedicated parishioner spent 500 hours carving a representation of the Last Supper and is currently working on statues of Mary, Joseph and St. Francis, which are expected to be completed by Christmas.

The church's new Stations of the Cross were hand-carved from linden wood in a small town in Poland and donated by a pair of Our Lady of Mercy parishioners, who had emigrated years ago from that same town. A light mounted behind each station illuminates the head of Jesus, and a carved vine of

thorns connects one station to the next along the church's walls.

"It almost would have been a shame if we had had the money to just pay for everything to be done by professionals," said Dave Bowe, building committee chair.

The interior of a 70-seat chapel that is a scale replica of the original Our Lady of Mercy Church is being completed by volunteers and should be ready by mid-October.

"This has really been the unfolding of a dream that has been shaping for a while," said Father Robinson. "In dedicating this church, we are taking an important step in the growth of our community. We will continue our commitment to education. We are also committed to serving the growing Hispanic community."

Our Lady of Mercy Church was founded in 1954 at Banner Road and Cascade Street in Winston-Salem. The parish also includes our Lady of Fatima Chapel on Third Street in downtown Winston-Salem.

In 1995, a weekly Mass in Spanish began, and the parish has continued outreach to the Spanish-speaking community. An estimated 500 Hispanics attend the Spanish Mass each week.

Father Robinson stressed that Our Lady of Mercy Church continued to support outreach efforts while building and paying for a new church.

"I hope (Our Lady of Mercy) continues to have its spirit of being warm and welcoming, of being concerned about those who are, in fact, forgotten," said Father Robinson.

"We cannot build this church in a dormant (environment) and forget our afflicted brothers and sisters," he said. "Worship and justice go together hand in hand."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE HISTORY?

For more on the history of Our Lady of Mercy Church, read the parish profile on Our Lady of Mercy Church's Web page at www.charlottediocese.org/parishes-all.html.

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Nun leads protest against filming of 'The Da Vinci Code'

LINCOLN, England (CNS) — A Catholic nun led a protest against the filming of "The Da Vinci Code" at a cathedral in Lincoln, saying the movie based on the best-seller is "an offense against God."

Sister Mary Michael, dressed in a habit with a veil, knelt in prayer in front of the doors of Lincoln Cathedral for 12 hours Aug. 15, the first of two days of filming in the city.

The cathedral, built by the Catholic Church in the 12th century but taken over by the Church of England during the Reformation, is serving as a double in the film for London's Westminster Abbey.

The 61-year-old nun, a former Discalced Carmelite who now belongs to Our Lady's Community of Peace and Mercy in Lincoln, also led a small group of protesters who greeted star Tom Hanks when he arrived at the medieval Gothic church.

Hanks waved briefly to fans before quickly walking into the cathedral with director Ron Howard.

Hanks and the film crew are said to have witnessed the protest.

Sister Mary Michael described Dan Brown's book, "The Da Vinci Code," as "blasphemous" for its story line that claims Jesus married Mary Magdalene and started a family.

She also said cathedral authorities were wrong to allow Sony Pictures to use the cathedral in exchange for a fee of about \$180,000. The nun accused them of "simony," a sin defined by the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" as "the buying or selling of spiritual things."

"The church should not be accepting money for something that is not a true story," she said. "They (church leaders) really should be praying more, and then the money would come in."

Westminster Abbey authorities turned down Sony's request to film because they considered the story to be "theologically unsound."

Filming is also scheduled to take place at Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland, and Winchester Cathedral in Winchester, England.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 18, 2005

Sept. 18, Twenty-fifth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 55:6-9
Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
- 2) Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
- 3) Matthew 20:1-16a

Generosity is essential to Christian living

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

During a high school band-booster meeting, the introduction of an audacious program of fundraising activities set off a conflict. Some families said they could not make such a large time commitment. Others wanted a close accounting of hours worked by each band member or parent in all fundraising events.

The unspoken accusation was that some band members might shirk their fair share of the fundraising work but still get to enjoy full benefits of the trip. The atmosphere was tense with power struggle and resentment.

Remembering that past experience, I felt blessed by the recent attitude of our

church youth as they raised funds for a mission trip. Some of them participated in only one fundraising project, some in all. Sometimes a youth came late or left early.

Not one teen questioned who had participated or how many times. A few youths joined the group late, but no one complained that they hadn't participated in fundraising. In fact, they were excited to have more people on the mission.

The difference in the two experiences?

The first was based on fairness — a laudable human convention created to offset our sinful tendency to injustice. But the latter experience was based on a higher value: generosity.

The second group learned their attitude through the generosity modeled by a Christian community.

They offered a parish breakfast and saw young families pay twice the ticket price. They witnessed a minister write a \$25 check for a \$5 car wash. They accepted donations from grandmothers and elderly parishioners who wanted to encourage their missionary spirit.

In this weekend's Gospel parable, Jesus emphasizes generosity over the human convention of equal pay for equal work. The latter is so ingrained in our culture that this parable is understandably hard for most of us to take on first reading.

But Jesus' teaching is that God's ways are even better than our ways, and we must stretch to imitate them.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11-17

Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35; Monday (Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary), 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 7:1-10; Tuesday (St. John Chrysostom), 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17; Wednesday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross), Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; Thursday (Our Lady of Sorrows), 1 Timothy 4:12-16, John 19:25-27; Friday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian), 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Luke 8:1-3; Saturday (St. Robert Bellarmine), 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18-24

Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Matthew 20:1-16; Monday (St. Januarius), Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; Tuesday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions), Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; Wednesday (St. Matthew), Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; Thursday, Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; Friday, Haggai 2:1-9, Luke 9:18-22; Saturday, Zachariah 2:5-9, 14-15 Jeremiah 31:10-13, Luke 9:43-45

Classifieds

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PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis greets parishioners at the luncheon following the Mass commemorating St. Mary Church's 50th anniversary in Sylva Aug. 30.

Parish anniversary celebrated

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

In his homily Bishop Jugis said this was his first visit to St. Mary Church.

"What an appropriate day to come, on the anniversary of the dedication of this church," he said.

The approximately 130 attendees at the celebration included Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas and lay Carmelites.

Concelebrating the Mass were a number of diocesan priests and two Polish priests visiting St. Barnabas Church in Arden. The Mass concluded with benediction and exposition of the Eucharist.

Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church, was ill and unable to attend the celebration.

"What I stressed with the people and what I felt myself is that we're building on the past," he said later.

Until the mid-1950s, there were just two churches in far-western North Carolina: St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville and St. Joseph Church in Bryson City. Father Lawrence Newman pastored the seven western counties that now comprise the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

Michael William Murphy, who later would build St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley and be ordained to the priesthood there at the age of 80, had wanted to build a church in Murphy in honor of his parents.

However, Jackson County did not have a Catholic church; Murphy agreed to provide the funds. Father Newman chose Sylva, where Masses were already being offered in the American Legion hall, a furniture store and other locations.

The church was dedicated in 1955, the same year that Bishop Waters agreed to let Glenmary Home Missioners staff parishes in the six counties west of Haywood.

Glenmary priests pastored St. Mary Church until diocesan priests took over in July 1988. Father William Evans became administrator.

Over the years, building programs added the parish hall and classroom facility, the church was enlarged and a rectory was built. Parishioners did much of

the work. At the request of Father James Cahill, who preceded Father Williams as pastor, parishioners dedicated a memorial to the unborn.

Within the last few years, the church has been remodeled and confessionals have been constructed of local black walnut. This year, a new baptismal font was installed in the new baptistry.

"There are some wonderfully dedicated people here," said Judy Ross, who has attended Mass there for 25 years. "Father Williams is a beautiful pastor."

"We love the peacefulness of it, the solemnity," said Jean Murcym: she and her husband, Joe, have been seasonal parishioners for 11 years.

"I love the small parish, where you know people's names. I love the spirituality," said Larry Schaad, a parishioner since 1982. "I'm blessed. God brought me here for a reason."

Some 25 to 30 people attend daily Mass.

"And they really do like and enjoy the rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament," Father Williams said. "Traditional devotions are very popular."

"This church is living up to the purpose for which it was dedicated," Bishop Jugis said in his homily. "This building is set aside for one single purpose: the celebration of the sacred rites so that the people of God can be formed into a living temple."

Although Sylva sits in a valley, it's at a higher elevation than Charlotte, the bishop said, adding that, "a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. The light from this altar flows through you to the people of Jackson County."

"Every time we come to this altar to celebrate the Eucharist, the structure of the living temple of the church is made more firm, because when we come here our incorporation into Christ becomes stronger," Bishop Jugis said.

"The opposite would be true if you never came to church after your baptism; the structure of the living temple of the church would be weak," he said. "It is faith that creates a bond of unity in all the people who come to this living temple, of which Christ is the cornerstone."

"You also have the bond of grace and the bond of charity to strengthen the body of the church," said the bishop.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

End-of-life issues, Part 2

A Catholic look at North Carolina advance directives

Guest Column

BOB MASON
GUEST COLUMNIST



In my previous column, I discussed the Catholic Church's position on end-of-life issues. Below, I summarize North Carolina law in view of the church's teachings and what you can do to ensure that you have a set of advance directives that complies with both secular law and church teaching.

The term "advance directives" is a general term covering both living wills and health care powers of attorney. In North Carolina, a living will is known also as a declaration of desire for a natural death ("DDND"). The terms are synonymous.

— Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPA): It is a document used to designate one or more persons to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so. If you do not have a Health Care Power of Attorney, the situation will be ripe for confusion and discord over who will be the appropriate decision maker.

You may or may not agree with the person who ultimately prevails as your decision maker. For example, one adult child who may be appropriate to make health care decisions for a parent or an infirm spouse may not be a good decision maker.

If you do not have a living will (DDND), but you do have a Health Care Power of Attorney, the agent named under the Health Care Power of Attorney likely will be able to make the same end-of-life decisions that you could have directed under a DDND.

Talk to your health care agent carefully and make sure that person both knows and understands your wishes and is familiar with (and will rely on) church teaching. You must trust the person appointed and be able to rely upon that person to "do the right thing."

North Carolina law provides an approved Health Care Power of Attorney form. The form is readily available and, in its statutory form, provides very broad powers to the health care agent, both in routine medical situations and more dire situations.

Unless you thoroughly and explicitly trust your agent in all situations, you should limit the agent's powers.

Item 4 of the Statutory Form provides a bit of space to do this. I know of very few individuals, lacking legal or medical training, who could do an adequate job of completing the "blank space."

The North Carolina statute provides that the form supplied is not the only way to comply with the statute. I have told

clients they can write a valid advance directive on the back of a grocery bag, as long as they know what they are doing.

National Right to Life has valid forms online for all states. Go to www.nrlc.org and click on "Will To Live." The North Carolina version is the statutory form, stripped of some provisions and with more structure given for Item 4.

Health Care Powers of Attorney allow you to appoint someone else to make decisions for you. Not all individuals have the luxury of a trusted, solid and available person to fill the role.

Further, the person chosen may not always be available. Or you may simply want to insure that your wishes are carried out.

A Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death will override a Health Care Power of Attorney to the extent of any inconsistencies. All Catholics should carefully consider completing one. As I will explain, the statutory form is not the only way to go.

Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death ("DDND"): That North Carolina Catholics understand how the state's Right to Natural Death Act works is vitally important. The act will apply to you whether you like it or not and regardless of whether you complete a DDND.

First, the act defines "persistent vegetative state" as "a medical condition whereby in the judgment of the attending physician [and one other physician] the patient suffers from a sustained complete loss of self-aware cognition and, without the use of extraordinary means or artificial nutrition or hydration, will succumb to death within a short period of time."

The definition is almost laughable if one analyzes it carefully: Two physicians need only agree that the patient (1) suffers from a "sustained" loss of self cognition, and (2) without ... artificial hydration or nutrition the patient will die. If the two physicians can agree to what ever "sustained" means, they can certainly agree that the patient will die if not given nutrition and hydration.

Second, the statutory form contains provisions that, if improperly completed, render the document self-negating.

Third (perhaps the most disturbing part), the act provides that, if some sort

Pope says people called to model lives on Jesus

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — People are called to model their lives on Jesus, since he has the redeeming power that lifts humanity out of the darkness of sin, Pope Benedict XVI said in his weekly general audience.

Idolaters "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the likeness of the image of mortal man" and became more and more like the lifeless objects they worshipped, he said.

To free themselves from this trap, the pope said people must continuously model their lives after the image of "the Son of God, since we have been freed from the power of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son," who offers redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

The pope flew to the Vatican by helicopter from his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo Sept. 7 to deliver his weekly catechesis to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

He focused his talk on the canticle in Chapter 1 of St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, which highlights how Jesus possesses full redemptive power.

In order to model one's life after the "image of the Son of God," one must enter into Christ's "feelings, his will and his thoughts," the pope said in remarks apart from his prepared text.

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



Jesus is "before all things," and it is in him that "all things hold together," the pope said in his text.

"Christ is our principle of cohesion, our mediator and all of creation's final destination," he said.

Pope Benedict said Christ became man in order to become part of the human community so he could "support and guide it" into a "harmonious and fertile" body.

The well-being and growth of humanity depend on Christ, who represents the foundation, "the root and the living hub" of mankind, he said.

To some 20,000 of the faithful from all over the world the pope offered greetings in 10 different languages, as well as his apostolic blessing.

Waving to the crowds, he left in his open-air jeep to hold private audiences in the Vatican with Irish President Mary McAleese and the prime minister of Madagascar, Jacques Sylla.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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of advance directive that complies with the act has not been completed, and if two physicians determine that the patient is either "terminable and incurable" or in a "persistent vegetative state," then a decision to withhold extraordinary medical treatment or artificial hydration and nutrition may be taken by (in order): the healthcare agent appointed under a HCPA, the guardian, the spouse and then "a majority of the relatives of the first degree."

If none of the foregoing is available, then the attending physician may decide.

In other words, there is not a "substituted judgment standard" here ("what

would Terri Schiavo have wanted" as proved — supposedly — by clear and convincing evidence; in Florida, at least the courts went through the motions of attempting to determine what Terri's subjective intent was).

Because of this rather disturbing situation, I believe it is important for all Catholics to complete a directive that agrees with both church teaching and the North Carolina statute.

Bob Mason is an elder law attorney certified by the National Elder Law Foundation and a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Asheboro.

Life is Christ

Catechists connect people to intimacy with Jesus

Oh, how good is the good God!

That simple statement summarizes so succinctly the conviction of St. Paul. Throughout his letters, St. Paul proclaims his gratitude for the Lord for being his savior and redeemer, model and guide.

Even in moments of persecution and suffering, Paul never fails to express the joy in his heart as he acknowledges with enthusiasm, "I live now not I, but Christ lives in me."

As we celebrate Catechetical Sunday throughout the United States on Sunday, Sept. 18, united to St. Paul we believe that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Like St. Paul, we are convinced that we can do all things in Christ, who strengthens us.

How blessed we are in this diocese that so many men and women, committed to Christ, participate in the catechetical, teaching mission of the Catholic Church. They respond personally and publicly to the invitation shared by the risen Christ on the mount of the Ascension, "Teach them everything I have commanded you and know that I am with you."

Pope John Paul II reminded the catechist of his or her primary responsibility when he wrote, "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in

Guest Column

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST



touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ" (On Catechesis in Our Time, No. 5).

It follows then that an essential aim of catechesis is to enable the hearer to appreciate, appropriate and assimilate the vision, values and virtues taught and lived by Jesus himself. Achieving that purpose is no easy task in a society that too often propagates the primacy of individualism, relativism, materialism and personal rights to the exclusion of personal responsibility.

In fidelity to the risen Christ, the catechist is to proclaim, "Choose life, not death. Choose love, not hatred. Choose peace, not violence."

The devoted, dedicated catechists who participate in the teaching mission of the church commit themselves to both sharing information and cultivating spiritual information. They minister to total

persons who are on the way. They are to be attentive to minds and hearts, attitudes and behavior. They are sent to assist maturing believers to be rooted in Christ, growing in his grace and responsive to the needs of others.

Catechists, if they are to be faithful in service, must recognize the centrality of the Eucharist in life and ministry. The Eucharist, the bread of life, enables each of us to grow in intimacy with Jesus. The Eucharist, the bread for life, strengthens us as we strive to be friends, disciples and witnesses of the risen Lord. As catechists become what they eat, they witness most effectively to their commitment to teach as Jesus did.

St. Paul, writing to the Philippians from a prison cell, proclaimed, "For to me life is Christ." The words spoken by Jesus, "I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly," surely touched and transformed St. Paul to the core of his being.

May the catechists, called to continuing conversion, to life in Christ, invite those whom they serve to open their minds, hearts and souls to the risen Christ.

Father Hawker is vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Dreams and our spiritual life

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. Our question is about dreams. Do they have any significance in our spiritual lives? Is it wrong to believe in them? Some dreams seem to hit close to home. (New Jersey)

A. I'm not sure what you mean by believing in dreams. But to think about them, reflect on what happens in our dreams, even to learn something from them is not wrong. We have ample proof even in the Bible that God can use dreams to help people better understand their lives and what God's will is for them.

Psychological sciences still cannot tell us very much for sure about where dreams come from or what makes them happen. It is now widely agreed, however, that reflection on one's dreams, trying to enter into their images and moods, and to understand them can contribute much to one's self-knowledge, emotions and what is going on in his or her life.

One author who has studied and written extensively about psychological and spiritual influences on our lives suggests we "befriend our dreams," mull them over a bit, especially if they are particularly vivid. Even sharing them simply and nonjudgmentally with someone else may be helpful, sometimes to both persons.

It is true that dreams might be used wrongly, for example if one pretends to tell fortunes from them or allows oneself to become obsessed with a fantasy world. But it could be just as wrong not to accept dreams as a natural, if puzzling, part of life or to assume there is something magical, even diabolical, about them.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Unborn pain

Compassion for animals; why not babies?

"It is therefore declared to be the policy of the United States that the slaughtering of livestock and the handling of livestock in connection with slaughter shall be carried out only by humane methods."

Those words come from the "Humane Methods of Slaughter Act," a law that expresses our concern for the pain experienced by animals, but that more fundamentally expresses a dimension of our own humanity. In Australia, the national Health and Medical Research Council requires painkillers to be used on the fetuses of animals!

So what about human fetuses?

On April 6, 2004, the following testimony was given in U.S. District Court (District of Nebraska) by Dr. Kanwaljeet Anand before Judge Richard G. Kopf in the case of Leroy Carhart, M.D., et. al. v. Ashcroft.

Q. "So, Doctor, do you have an opinion as to whether the partial-birth abortion procedure causes pain to the fetus?"

A. "If the fetus is beyond 20 weeks of gestation, I would assume that there will be pain caused to the fetus. And I believe it will be severe and excruciating pain caused to the fetus."

Q. "What do you mean by severe and excruciating pain?"

A. "You see, the threshold for pain is very low. The fetus is very likely extremely sensitive to pain during the gestation of 20 to 30 weeks.

"And so the procedures associated with the partial-birth abortion that I just described would be likely to cause severe pain, right from the time the fetus is being manipulated and being handled to the time that the incision is made, and the brain or the contents, intracranial contents, are sucked out."

In 1994, an article in the prestigious British medical journal, the Lancet, revealed hormonal stress reactions in the fetus. The article concluded with the recommendation that painkillers be used when surgery is done on the fetus.

The authors wrote, "This applies not just to diagnostic and therapeutic procedures on the fetus, but possibly also to termination of pregnancy, especially by surgical techniques involving dismemberment."

In 1991, scientific advisors to the Federal Medical Council in Germany had made a similar recommendation.

In August 2001, Great Britain's Medical Research Council concluded

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST



that pain perception may be as early as 20 weeks; other studies place it as early as 10 weeks.

It should be noted that each year in the United States alone, more than 18,000 abortions take place at 21 or more weeks of pregnancy.

The Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act now has been introduced in Congress, to inform women having abortions at 20 weeks or more that their baby may feel pain. The legislation deserves our support. It would require that the mother be given the option to provide painkillers to her baby. This is not to justify abortion, but will certainly make many people think twice about it.

Many abortion supporters will, of course, continue to deny reality. As Bertrand Russell wrote, "A fisherman once told me that fish have neither sense nor sensation, but how he knew this, he could not tell me."

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.



DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2005

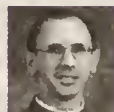
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FRIDAY, 7 PM: SACRED MUSIC CONCERT
SATURDAY, 8 AM: EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

CONGRESS SPEAKERS



Bishop William Curlin - Eucharistic Holy Hour Homily -- Bishop Curlin is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte.



Bishop Peter Jugis - "Welcome" -- Bishop Jugis is the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

General Track



James Caviezel - Actor; best known for his stunning performance as Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ." His testimony about his Catholic faith is as riveting as any of his screen performances.

Kerri Caviezel - wife of the well-known actor and a dynamic speaker in her own right



Scott Hahn - "The Lamb's Supper" -- Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He is well known, both nationally and internationally, for inspiring audiences as he explores topics relating Scripture to our Catholic faith.



Johnnette Benkovic - "In His Eucharistic Heart" -- Ms. Benkovic is the founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International, Inc., a Catholic evangelization apostolate with worldwide outreaches in television, radio, print and Internet communications.



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio - "Feast of Faith" -- Dr. D'Ambrosio is a specialist in the interpretation of sacred Scripture and tradition. His teaching covers a broad range of subjects from historical, dogmatic, and sacramental theology to evangelization. (also will speak in Hispanic Track)



Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa - "Stay With Us" -- Fr. Cantalamessa was appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II and continues to serve as official "Homilist to the Papal Household." (also will speak in Hispanic Track)

Hispanic Track



Dr. Dora Tobar - "Hostias Viva Para Un Mundo Con Hambre" -- Dr. Tobar is a professor of theology at Catholic University of America who specializes in leading spiritual retreats around the nation.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (see topic above)

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa (see topic above)

Teen Track



Fr. Francis Mary Stone, M.F.V.A. - "The Extreme Make-Over: Putting on the Armor of Christ" -- Fr. Stone, who appears frequently on EWTN, is a down-to-earth former financier and jock turned priest who leads young people to Christ.



Fr. Leo Patalinghug, S.T.L. - "Spiritual Combat" -- Fr. Patalinghug entertains and inspires young people with break-dancing and karate, which he compares to a spiritual battle. His message: "God is calling every one of you to do something."



Fr. Antoine Thomas - "Why Stay With Jesus?" -- Fr. Thomas understands how youth can embrace and be enriched by spending time with the Blessed Sacrament in schools and parishes; he also shares what adults can do to encourage the practice.



Charlie Aeschliman - "Basketball and Eucharistic Strength" -- Mr. Aeschliman is a former elite Navy S.E.A.L. and Basketball Handling Champion who presents a unique, fast-paced and fun character building talk.

Children's Track (Kindergarten through fifth grade)



Ken Doran - "Stories of Hope: How God Works Wonders!" -- A dynamic and creative teacher, Ken's approach is age-appropriate and fun for all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Year of the
Eucharist

Mystery of the Mass, Part
25; Pope urges Catholics
to rediscover cross

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SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 NO 42

Homes destroyed, not faith

Two evacuee
families reflect on
Katrina experiences

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Out of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina have come countless stories of death and destruction. But there are also stories of hope, recovery and renewed faith.

Even though Ali and Maddy Cuevas have lost many of their belongings, they realize those are only possessions that can be replaced.

What did survive Hurricane Katrina — their family, their friends, their church (St. John the Evangelist Church in Gulfport, Miss.) — is much more important.

The Cuevas sisters — Ali, a seventh-grader, and Maddy, a fifth-grader — are staying with their aunt and uncle,



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Maddy Cuevas points out the damage to her Long Beach, Miss. neighborhood as her sister Ali looks on. The Cuevas sisters rode out Hurricane Katrina in their grandmother's home in North Long Beach and have been staying with an aunt and uncle in Salisbury.

See KATRINA, page 5

LEADING THE WAY Communicants invited to guide eucharistic procession

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis is inviting all children in the Diocese of Charlotte who received their first Communion during 2005 to join in the eucharistic procession.

The Saturday morning procession through uptown Charlotte is part of the Eucharistic Congress taking place at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 23-24.

Invitation letters from the bishop to the communicants were sent out the week of Aug. 29.

"I would like you to help

See CONGRESS, page 7

Pope to preside over first canonizations in October

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI will create five new saints when he presides over his first canonization ceremony Oct. 23 in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul II, approved the decrees creating the five new saints. The late pope had also approved the decrees authorizing several beatifications this autumn; various cardinals will preside over those ceremonies.

Pope Benedict has not yet

See POPE, page 12

GATHERING IN FAITH

New parish activity center dedicated at Holy Spirit

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

DENVER — Not quite two years after the December 2003 groundbreaking, the new parish activity center at Holy Spirit Church in Denver is "open for business."

With Knights of Columbus lining the entrance, around 250 parishioners crowded inside as

Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the 19,908 square-foot center Sept. 10.

After Mass in the church concelebrated by Father Joseph Ayathupadam, pastor, and Father Richard Hanson, Bishop Jugis sprinkled holy water about the center's 11

See ACTIVITY, page 9



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis sprinkles holy water during the Sept. 10 dedication of the new parish activity center at Holy Spirit Church in Denver.

Culture Watch

Tolkien's Catholic vision in books;
'Exorcism' prompts look at faith

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Portraying a saint

Catholics perform play on
St. Francis' life

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Perspectives

Mass obligations;
experiencing Katrina

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF TORRES FAMILY

Jason Torres reaches out to his infant daughter, Susan Anne Catherine Torres, at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Va. The baby's mother, Susan Michelle, was brain-dead and had been kept on life support until the baby was delivered Aug. 2. The baby died five weeks later of heart failure following surgery for a perforated intestine.

Baby delivered from brain-dead Virginia woman dies at 5 weeks old

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Susan Anne Catherine Torres, the 5-week-old baby of Jason and Susan Torres, died at 12:01 a.m. Sept. 12 of heart failure following surgery for a perforated intestine at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, according to the hospital's statement.

The child was born Aug. 2 after a three-month struggle to keep her mother alive. Susan Torres suffered brain damage in May from melanoma cancer that had spread to her brain and was kept on life support until the baby could be born.

The mother died Aug. 3 after life support was removed.

"After the efforts of this summer to bring her into the world, this is obviously a devastating loss," said Justin Torres, the baby's uncle, in the family's statement.

"We wish to thank all the people who sustained us in prayer over the past 17 weeks," he said. "It was our fondest wish that we could have been able to share Susan's homecoming with the world."

Susan Anne Catherine was being cared for in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington. When first born, the premature baby was "vigorous" and many expected that she would survive de-

spite her original due date being seven weeks away.

On Sept. 9, Susan was transferred to the Washington medical center, where she was treated for her intestinal problems.

The disorder, necrotizing enterocolitis, caused an infection that "overwhelmed her tiny body, leading to multi-system organ failure," said the center's statement. "The team initially tried to medically stabilize her, but ultimately performed two surgeries. Unfortunately, she was too sick and fragile to recover."

Parishioners at St. Rita Church in Alexandria, where Jason Torres and his family are members, heard the news at morning Mass Sept. 12 and immediately offered prayers for the child and the family.

"At this painful moment of redoubled loss, we commend Jason and the entire Torres family to the Lord in prayer," said Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

"Confident that Susan Anne Catherine Torres is already reunited with her mother, we thank the Lord for their witness and for the gift of their courageous lives," he said. "May the Lord draw close to the Torres family at this time and provide them with comfort and peace where words fail."

Pellegrino named to head president's bioethics council

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, a physician and longtime leader in developing bioethical standards based on Catholic values, has been named chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics.

Pellegrino, 85, said that among the topics he plans to address in his new post are greater access to health care and issues involved in end-of-life care.

Pellegrino, retired professor of medicine and medical ethics at Georgetown University's Medical Center and a former president of The Catholic University of America, will replace Dr. Leon Kass, bioethics professor at the University of Chicago, on Oct. 1. Kass, chairman since 2001, will continue as a member of the council.

The announcement was made Sept. 8 by the White House. The council was created in 2001 by President George W. Bush to advise him on bioethical issues. Previous presidents have had similar advisory boards.

"The council has set a very high bar in addressing many of the serious bioethical issues before our country," said Pellegrino.

"Many significant issues remain, ranging from the challenges of ensuring access to health care to meeting critically important needs in end-of-life care," he said.

Pellegrino is also a member of the International Bioethics Committee of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

On Sept. 29 the council plans to issue its report on aging. It will be the seventh report prepared by the council. Other report topics have included human cloning and stem-cell research.

Positions Pellegrino has taken during his career include opposing a right for a person to commit suicide or to be assisted in dying and opposing the creation of human embryos for experimentation and the destruction of human embryos for research.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Catholic Social Services invites you to our second annual *Fiesta Tamale*, Oct. 1, 2-6 p.m. at 50 Orange St. Join us for authentic Mexican food, activities and music. Please call (828) 255-0146 for further information.

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the reception room of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father John Starzewski will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a support group for those whose job status is causing them to seek employment. Sessions include interactive discussions on networking, resumes and interview skills. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m. in room 132 of the New

Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Please call Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., is offering a free eight-week *Spanish Class*. Classes meet Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 869-7739 or e-mail Larry Kwan at hlkw@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church meets every other Thursday evening from 7:30-9 p.m. in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The first session is Sept. 22. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will start its 2005-2006 fiscal year with a luncheon Sept. 28 at Cardinal Coun-

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope challenges nations to keep commitments to U.N. goals for poor

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI challenged participants at the U.N. World Summit to fulfill their previous commitments to help the poor, sick and hungry.

The pope, speaking at his Sunday blessing Sept. 11, said he was sending Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state, to attend the summit in New York Sept. 14-16. The summit's agenda includes world peace, human rights, development aid and U.N. internal reforms.

"I express my fervent hope that the governments united there may find appropriate solutions to reach the great goals that have been set previously, in the spirit of harmony and generous solidarity," the pope told several hundred pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of his summer villa outside Rome.

"I especially hope that effective concrete measures can be implemented to

respond to the most urgent problems created by extreme poverty, sickness and hunger, which afflict so many populations," he said.

The Vatican has been a strong supporter of the Millennium Development Goals of 2000, in which world leaders laid out a timetable to cut global poverty in half by 2015. To meet the goal, richer countries would increase development aid to 0.7 percent of their gross domestic product.

The brief remarks at his Sunday blessing marked the second time in less than three months that Pope Benedict has reminded world leaders of their pledge to help the poor and urged them to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The New York summit was expected to draw more than 170 heads of state and government to participate in discussions and plenary sessions. It was to be followed by the opening of the U.N. General Assembly's 60th session.

try Club, 4108 Windlestraw Ln. The speaker will be Rosemary Plybon, "The Good Morning Show" anchor for WFMY News 2. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Park and Campgrounds, 7081 NC 181 N., Oct. 1 at 11:30 a.m., with Mass at 12 p.m. A covered-dish lunch will follow. Other events will include music, witness and hiking nature trails until 3:30 p.m. For directions and more information, call Mary Hennie at (704) 637-6064 or e-mail mjhennie@msn.com.

NEWTON — The *Brother Francis Secular Franciscan Fraternity* will be celebrating the death of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St. All are invited to come for the Transitus service and the reception afterwards in the Family Center. For more information, call (828) 466-1664.

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — As part of the St. Therese Church *Guest Speaker Series*, Bill Martin will speak about Islam and Mohammed, including his background, beliefs and biases, Sept. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Family Room of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY -- The *Smoky Mountain Vicariate Eucharistic Assembly* will take place Oct. 1, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Living Waters

Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. Augustinian Father Frank Doyle will present "Lift up your hearts; see who you are, and become what you see," followed by a bilingual liturgy and lunch. The assembly is free and open to the public. To register, call (828) 926-3833 or email LWCRC@main.nc.us.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Portiuncula Franciscan Spiritual Center*, 211 W. Third St., provides an environment, experiences and resources that enable people to meet God in both stillness and activity. A reading group will meet Sept. 20 and 27, 6-7:30 p.m., to reflect on "Franciscan Prayer" by Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio. The group meets on the third and fourth Tuesdays of each month through January 2006. For more information, call Sister Kathy Ganiel, at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail Portiuncula@bellsouth.net.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

KERNERSVILLE — *Triad Pax Christi* meets the third Sunday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Child Development building of Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. The emphasis is on peace education, prayer and action. For more information, call Gerard Berry at (336) 922-1941.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

On Sept. 11, pope pays homage to all victims of terrorism

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — On the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, Pope Benedict XVI paid homage to all victims of terrorism around the world and appealed for an end to hatred and renewed dedication to peace.

"Today, 11 Sept., we remember the victims of terrorist violence throughout the world," he said at the end of his noontime Angelus prayer at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo.

"May God inspire men and women of good will everywhere to renounce hatred and to build a world of justice, solidarity and peace," he said.

In Rome, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley said the unpredictable attacks by terrorists and the recent Hurricane Katrina disaster in the United States remind people that "we are dependent every moment of our lives upon the Lord."

While human beings are autonomous, they are not self-sufficient, he said in his Sept. 11 homily at Rome's American parish, Santa Susanna.

Christians are called to live their lives "in that delicate balance between personal responsibility and effort and the realization that we depend totally and utterly upon God, our creator and redeemer," he said.

"How many people put their trust in money and possessions — and we see how soon it can all be lost. How many people put their trust in power — and we see how soon we find ourselves powerless in the hands of a few fanatics or in the face of a force of nature," said the archbishop.

He said being utterly dependent on God may sound like a limitation, but "in reality (it is) our strength."

"No matter what tragedy may befall, we are the Lord's. He is present to us at every moment of our lives," he said.

"If we live, we live for the Lord and, if we die, we die for the Lord," he said, quoting from that day's Mass reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. The archbishop said the Lord is the one "who will receive us when we die."

Training the trainers



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Susan Chesnut leads a *Protecting God's Children for Facilitators training workshop* at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Aug. 19. The program is a professional training session that teaches facilitators how to present the *Protecting God's Children Program* to adults. It also teaches facilitators how to facilitate group discussions and to incorporate diocesan policies and procedures into the sessions.

The *Protecting God's Children Program* teaches staff, volunteers and parents in diocesan parishes, schools, agencies and ministries to recognize the warning signs of child sexual abuse and to respond appropriately. Over the past two years, 10,727 diocesan employees, parents and volunteers have gone through the training in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, a document adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 17 — 5 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Sept. 21 — 6 p.m. MACS Circle of Celebration
Charlotte

Sept. 23-24 Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress
Charlotte Convention Center

Sept. 25 — 8:30 a.m. Mass for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Annual Convention
Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel, Charlotte

Animated youths

TEENS TO PERFORM AT NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

HICKORY — Eight youths from St. Aloysius Church in Hickory recently returned from Atlanta, Ga., where they have been training as youth animators for the upcoming National Catholic Youth Conference in October.

The biennial, four-day conference of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers, this year themed "Yeah! — Winds of Change," is to be held at the Georgia World Congress Center and Dome in Atlanta Oct. 27-29.

This year's schedule includes general and concurrent sessions addressing a wide variety of topics including forgiveness, Catholic spirituality and prayer, global issues, sexuality and leadership.

There also will be special activities including a concert and exhibits.

The youth group from St. Aloysius Church, along with about 45 youths from other East Coast parishes, will perform onstage with contemporary Catholic musicians in front of an expected 25,000 youths and adult chaperones. They will sing solos, cantor psalms and serve as lectors.

Youths from St. Aloysius Church are Chris Beeson, Michael Gissy, Quinn Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Queen, Paige Campbell, Miriam McDonald, Jackie Leufken and Hannah Reid, all members of the parish's Life Teen Praise Team.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the National Catholic Youth Conference, visit www.nfcym.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Eight youths from St. Aloysius Church in Hickory recently completed training to be youth animators for the upcoming National Catholic Youth Conference in October in Atlanta, Ga.

Boy Scout Troop 12 marks 25 years

CHARLOTTE — Boy Scout Troop 12 celebrated its 25th anniversary earlier this summer with an awards banquet at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

The troop began in 1940, based at Oakhurst School on Monroe Road. It was hosted by other churches before

moving to St. John Neumann Church in 1980. The troop is sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. John Neumann Council 7343.

Several of the 15 Boy Scouts from the troop who have earned Eagle Scout awards attended the anniversary celebration.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students and teachers at St. Patrick School in Charlotte form a giant "75" on the school playground and release 300 balloons Sept. 8 as part of the school's 75th anniversary.

School celebrates 75th birthday with balloons — lots of them

CHARLOTTE — The blue sky above St. Patrick School temporarily turned green and white recently.

Students and teachers at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, as well as Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, released about 300 green and white balloons Sept. 8 as part of the school's 75th anniversary.

After a special "birthday" Mass, the students formed a giant "75" on the school playground before releasing the balloons. They then enjoyed birthday cake.

The school opened as O'Donoghue School but was renamed in 1965.

Alumni are raising money to provide bells for the school's empty bell tower. The bells will be used to call students to class and for graduation and May crowning ceremonies.

The 75th Anniversary Committee is looking for all alumni for a special celebration March 17, 2006.

WANT TO GO?

If you attended O'Donoghue School/St. Patrick School, contact Mary Horan Ognovich at (704) 376-6969 or Angela Montague at (704) 333-3174. Leave name, address, years attended and phone number.

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Call: Patti Dameron
(336) 785-4283 or (336) 413-8127

Hurricane builds faith

KATRINA, from page 1

Stacey and Kevin Cuevas, in Salisbury and are attending Sacred Heart School. They and their parents, Kerwin and Peggy Cuevas, live in Long Beach, Miss., four miles west of Gulfport. Their house is only about 350 yards from the beach. During the storm, they sought refuge at Peggy Cuevas' mother's home in North Long Beach. Instead of shaking their faith, as some might expect, Katrina actually strengthened it. "(This experience) makes you lean more on God," said Ali. "It makes you realize that you really do have a great family."

"I know God will answer all our prayers and protect us," said Maddy. A few days after the hurricane, the Cuevas family was walking along the beach when they encountered Father Louis Lohan, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Long Beach. Only the church's exterior frame survived Katrina, and officials are unsure if the frames can be saved.

When the family asked Father Lohan his opinion about the devastation, "He just said 'It's all just stuff,'" said Ali. "What you lost can be rebuilt."

"I thought we had it really bad and then we watched the New Orleans (news coverage)," said Maddy. The sisters' respite in Salisbury will likely be over soon. Their school in Mississippi is scheduled to re-open Sept. 20. Riding out Hurricane Katrina hasn't scared the girls too much. When asked whether they would evacuate for the next hurricane, Maddy replied, "It depends on what category it is."

The Grass family of New Orleans

wasn't as fortunate as the Cuevas. The family left New Orleans in the early morning hours Aug. 28 and arrived in Charlotte Sept. 1 to stay with Grass' sister. As of Sept. 12, their month-old house was under at least eight feet of water. Glenn Grass, a professional watchmaker, lost all of his watching-making tools in the flooding. His wife, Jane Katner-Grass, managed a cooking school and she isn't sure if it will re-open. They don't think there will be a market for their skills in New Orleans any time soon. They've temporarily relocated to Charlotte, perhaps for two years. Still, Katner-Grass realized how lucky they are. All of their family members survived the hurricane, and they are now staying rent-free in a townhouse. "The outpouring from the community has been wonderful," she said. As reported in the Sept. 9 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, the three Grass children are enrolled tuition-free at Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. "The diocese has been wonderful to us," Katner-Grass remarked. Katner-Grass admits the past few weeks have been difficult. She cries when she's happy; she cries when she's sad. "The kids are amazing ... they've been so positive and upbeat," she said. "They love their new schools and the kids have made them feel so welcome and at home. 'Thank you' isn't enough."

The Grasses come from long lines of devout Catholic families. Four of Katner-Grass' great aunts were women religious in Louisiana. "We feel like our ancestors are watching over us," Katner-Grass said. "(This experience) has renewed our faith."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Banding together with aid



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Above: Pre-kindergarten students at Asheville Catholic School hold boxes of band-aids Sept. 8 collected for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The band-aids were among other items collected by students to be delivered to hurricane victims through Hearts with Hands, Inc., a Christian, nondenominational charitable organization that provides aid to victims of poverty, natural disaster and famine. Students and faculty gathered in the school parking lot for a prayer service for the victims.

Asheville Catholic families are providing housing for three families from the hurricane-stricken area. Some students have donated school supplies and uniforms.

The Asheville Catholic students "have really made an effort to welcome and help these students, some who still have one or both parents unaccounted for," said Alyssa Kennedy, religion teacher.



COURTESY PHOTO

A student at St. Ann School in Charlotte digs into his pocket for a special collection to aid Hurricane Katrina victims taken during the back-to-school/first Friday Mass at St. Ann Church Sept. 2. The students raised and donated \$540 to relief efforts.

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WANT MORE INFO?

Do you need information about how to assist evacuees from Hurricane Katrina or know someone in need of assistance?

For information, referral or direct assistance, call one of Catholic Social Services regional offices at:

Charlotte Regional Office
(704) 370-6155

Western Regional Office
(828) 255-0146

Piedmont Triad Office
(336) 727-0705

Please visit www.cssnc.org for the latest updates regarding needs.

Funding the future



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sister of St. Joseph Joan Pearson, far right, excitedly shows her grant check from the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury Sept. 11. Also pictured are Father Julio Dominguez, parochial vicar; Ray Paradowski, parishioner; and Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development.

Diocesan foundation presents grant checks at Sacred Heart Church

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, presented three grant checks from the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to Sacred Heart Church and School and the Salisbury Vicariate Hispanic Ministry during Masses Sept. 11.

Sacred Heart School received a \$5,000 grant to help pay the salary of a part-time employee who will provide academic assistance to the school's Hispanic students.

The newly established Hispanic Ministry for the Salisbury Vicariate received a \$4,000 grant, which will be used for evangelization materials and for spiritual formation programs for Hispanic youth, young adults and adults in the five parishes and one mission of the vicariate.

"Through the foundation, the Diocese of Charlotte serves ministries that are not independently funded," said Sister of St. Joseph Joan Pearson, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the Salisbury Vicariate.

The Hispanic Ministry works to fully welcome Hispanics into their parishes.

An additional \$2,500 grant was given to Sacred Heart Church to be used for the parish's Hispanic ministry activities.

"These grants allow us to reach more individuals than we would normally be able to with our parish budget," said Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church and vicar forane for the Salisbury Vicariate.

The diocesan foundation provides endowments for the diocese and its parishes, agencies and organizations. An endowment is a permanent fund in which the principal is never touched. The income may be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor organization or individual.

Through the creation of endowments, the foundation provides a means to generate future and sustainable income for Catholic entities in the diocese.

2005 Foundation Grants

Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte
Technical equipment for student computer-lending program \$1,000

Diocesan Hispanic Ministry
Formation of Coordinators of Hispanic ministry \$3,500

Glen Haven Tutorial Center, Greensboro
Refugee programming and rental assistance \$4,000

Hispanic Center, High Point
Family Literacy Program expansion \$4,000

Hispanic Ministry, Greensboro Vicariate
Hispanic leadership formation \$2,000

Hispanic Ministry, Sacred Heart, Salisbury
Hispanic ministry materials \$2,500

Hispanic Ministry, Salisbury Vicariate
Hispanic ministry materials and equipment \$4,000

Hispanic Ministry, St. Frances of Rome Church, Sparta
Hispanic Vacation Bible School \$3,800

Hispanic Ministry, Winston-Salem Vicariate
Hispanic ministry training \$2,000

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte
Hispanic radio ministry \$2,500

Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington
Hispanic ministry materials \$2,500

Our Lady of the Angels Mission, Marion
Hispanic outreach ministry \$5,000

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte
Hispanic ministry equipment and supplies \$2,500

Sacred Heart School, Salisbury
Academic assistance for Hispanic students \$5,000

Seigle Avenue Preschool Cooperative, Charlotte
Developing Emergent Literacy program \$4,500

Smoky Mountain Vicariate/Immaculate Conception Mission, Canton
Hispanic pastoral support \$5,000

St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill
Hispanic outreach services \$2,000

St. Ann School, Charlotte
Science curriculum equipment \$1,000

St. Leo School, Winston-Salem
Read Naturally Program for special-needs students \$4,000

Thrift Store, Gastonia
Thrift Store equipment, materials and staffing \$3,500

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkelley@charlottediocese.org.

Called and gifted

*Reflecting on vocations,
spiritual gifts to transform
the world*

BY BARBARA GADDY
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MOORESVILLE — Christ calls each person to a particular vocation — a unique life of work of love that transforms each one and the world.

That was the message relayed during the "Called and Gifted Workshop," hosted at St. Therese Church in Mooresville Aug. 12-13.

Bryan Dolejsi and Mary Sharon Moore, presenters from the Catherine of Siene Institute, helped 60 participants from six parishes recognize that they are called to participate in the church's mission to the world.

The participants took the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory — a series of 120 statements that identify patterns in their lives and several specific spiritual gifts for more extensive discernment.

"Completing the Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory gave me not only insight into what God is asking me to do and be, but it also gave me an appreciation for the gifts he has bestowed on those around me — colleagues, family and friends," said Kerry Ann Tornessello, stewardship chair at St. Therese Church.

"We truly are all gifted and called," she said.

The group then explored the various charisms outlined in the inventory. Many

felt it would have been easy to get caught up in the excitement of owning these charisms.

Dolejsi and Moore emphasized these spiritual gifts were given not for any one person's benefit, but for the benefit of others. It is the essence of stewardship — recognizing that God is the real source of what people have, and that people are called to use God's gifts in service to others.

"This workshop was a once-in-lifetime event for many of us," said Joe Gutekanst, a parishioner of St. Therese Church.

"It seems that we go through the days, months, years of our lives never asking ourselves what are those specific gifts that God has given us, and how that relates to our lives — what we want to be when we 'grow up,'" said Gutekanst.

"Brian and Mary Sharon have really opened eyes and energized folks — not just to better discern their life's mission, but also showing us the tremendous opportunity to use this workshop as an effective tool in stewardship efforts on a parish level," he said.

By the workshop's end, participants had an opportunity to identify five or six charisms that emerged from their inventories. They were sent forth with a challenge to further explore those charisms by spending time in prayer, speaking with others about how God uses them and getting involved in some activity that would best express their own unique gifts.

Barbara Gaddy is associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

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- * Friday, 4 pm — The Christian Anthropology of Vatican II and Virtual Reality
- * Friday, 7:30 pm — Keynote: Vatican II Today: Forty Years Later
Reverend Thomas G. Weinandy, O.F.M., Cap., Ph.D., Executive Director, Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

- * Saturday, 9 am — Christian Anthropology and Contemporary Psychological Studies
- * Saturday, 10:30 am — Lumen Gentium: The Once and Future Constitution
- * Saturday, 1:30 pm — Dei Verbum: Sacred Scripture since Vatican II
- * Saturday, 3:00 pm — Dignitatus Humanae: Religious Liberty and American Foreign Policy

Saturday, 6:30 pm — Cardinal Wright Award Dinner

Cardinal Wright Award to Gerard V. Bradley, J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School
Cardinal O'Boyle Award to Helen Hull Hitchcock, President, Women for Faith and Family, and Editor, Adoremus Bulletin

- * Sunday, 8:30 am — Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D., Bishop of Charlotte

- * Sunday, 9:45 am — Unitatis Redintegratio: Providential Turn or Historic Mistake?



Complete schedule including costs and to register:

www.CatholicScholars.org

E-mail: Jack.Rook@avemaria.edu

Phone: Jack Rook 239/280-1670

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Communicants to lead procession

CONGRESS, from page 1

me honor Jesus in a special way at our diocesan Eucharistic Congress," wrote Bishop Jugis.

The eucharistic procession will start at St. Peter Church and end at the convention center.

"I will be carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance, and you will be in the procession in front of me dropping rose petals to honor our Lord," wrote Bishop Jugis.

Participating communicants are asked to wear their first Communion clothing, be in front of St. Peter Church by 7:15 a.m., and to have a permission form completed by their parents or guardians, who are invited to walk along

the side of the procession.

Everyone in the diocese is invited to participate in the eucharistic procession. Following the Eucharist will be banner carriers representing churches, schools and organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte. The faithful are invited to join the procession as their banner passes by.

For those unable to attend the Eucharistic Congress, they can view it on the Internet at www.goeucharist.com.

WANT MORE INFO?

The eucharistic procession will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon Street. To register as a first communicant for the procession, or for more information on the Eucharistic Congress, visit www.goeucharist.com.

Pope urges Catholics to rediscover cross as sign of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged Catholics to rediscover a simple but profound symbol of their faith: the sign of the cross.

The Eucharist and the cross of Christ's crucifixion have a deep connection that deserves contemplation by the faithful, the pope said Sept. 11. A perfect occasion for reflection, he said, was the Sept. 14 feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The pope said that just as every celebration of the Eucharist is a remembrance of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the cross is the manifestation of the "act of infinite love with

which the Son of God saved man and the world from sin and death."

"For this reason, the sign of the cross is the fundamental gesture of prayer for the Christian," the pope said.

"To mark oneself with the sign of the cross is to pronounce a visible and public 'yes' to the one who died for us and rose again, to the God who in the humility and weakness of his love is omnipotent, stronger than all the power and intelligence of the world," he said.

The pope said the cross is the means through which Christ "entered into his glory and reconciled all humanity, overcoming all hatred."

Domine, Non Sum Dignus

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 25

Last time, we examined the rituals that prepare and dispose us to receive holy Communion.

As a final act of preparation, the celebrant raises the host above the paten or chalice and recites the words of St. John the Baptist: "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." All respond with the words of the Centurion soldier from the Gospel: "Domine, non sum dignus..." ["Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed" in the current English translation] (Matthew 8:8).

This final act of humility and trust is not only the most appropriate preparation for holy Communion but the best perspective to approach our discussion this week: "Lord, I am not worthy."

No one is worthy, per se, to receive the most sublime gift of the church's treasury, namely, Christ himself. It is only necessary that the priest receives holy Communion at the Mass for the sacrifice to be complete and the Mass to be offered validly.

However, the church has encouraged the faithful to receive holy Communion, so that they too might partake of the innumerable spiritual graces and benefits of the holy Eucharist. The church even mandates the faithful to receive holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season (Canon 920). But who is allowed to receive holy Communion?

According to Canon Law, "Any baptized person not prohibited by law can and must be admitted to holy Communion" (Canon 912). Those prohibited by law would include those not in communion with the Catholic Church, children under the age of reason, those who persevere in manifest grave sin, etc.

For those who are not permitted to receive holy Communion, it should be noted that they are not excluded from the worship of God by attending Mass and they should be encouraged to make a "spiritual communion" while others are receiving Communion. A spiritual communion is the traditional practice of uniting oneself to Christ in a prayer of self-offering that seeks to receive the graces and benefits of Christ's sacrifice.

Returning to the Communion Rite of the Mass, the priest receives the consecrated host after saying silently, "May the body of Christ bring me to everlasting life." Similarly, he receives the Precious Blood after saying silently, "May the blood of Christ bring me to everlasting life."

At this point, the celebrant may be

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



assisted by other ordinary ministers of holy Communion, such as concelebrating priests or deacons. If there are not enough ordinary ministers to distribute holy Communion, extraordinary ministers now approach the altar to receive Communion and assist the priest.

After the celebrant has received Communion, the Communion antiphon is recited or the Communion chant begins. The purpose of the hymn is to express unity of voices and joy of heart while the faithful begin the communion procession.

As the faithful approach the minister to receive holy Communion, the communicant is to make a sign of reverence before receiving. The general norm in the United States is to bow before the Blessed Sacrament and to bow again before the chalice containing the Precious Blood.

After the reception of holy Communion, the priest places the remaining hosts in the tabernacle and purifies the sacred vessels at the altar or credence table. At this time, it is highly recommended to observe a few moments of silence, since the body and blood of the Lord is truly present in the body and soul of each communicant. These are the most precious moments on earth.

"Domine, non sum dignus, Lord, I am not worthy" and yet, he continues to "welcome sinners and eat with them" (Cf. Matthew 9:11). After a few moments of silence, the celebrant stands and invites the faithful to pray: "Let us pray." The Communion Rite closes with the third proper collect or prayer of the Mass, known as the "Prayer after Communion."

Next time, we will examine the Concluding Rites of the Mass.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.



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- Sustainable agricultural, land use and energy use practices
- The link between sustainable economic development and environmental justice

First Plenary Presenter (Friday evening): Anthony Flaccavento
Executive Director, Appalachian Sustainable Development, Abingdon, VA

Second Plenary Presenter (Saturday morning): Sr. Clare McBrien, RSHM
Ecological Educator, Appalachian Office of Justice & Peace, Diocese of Richmond, VA

Third Plenary Presenter (Saturday afternoon): Dr. Robert Gronski
Policy Coordinator, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

Conference Fee - \$55 per person (Fee includes Saturday breakfast & lunch; Fee does not include lodging. Attendees must make own lodging arrangements with LWCR or area hotels). The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center phone number is 828-926-3833.

Conference participation is limited to 80 Attendees.

For information please contact: The Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203 / Ph. 704-370-3225 / Email: justicepeace@charlottediocese.org
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CATHOLIC
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First teachers



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with home-schooled students and their parents outside St. Patrick Cathedral Church Aug. 13.

Homeschooling families celebrate ministry

BY DAN AND BETH OHLHAUT
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Parents are given a profound privilege to form their children in the Catholic faith and with this come many moral responsibilities, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

The bishop presented that message to more than 200 homeschoolers during a Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral Aug. 13. Most of the families present at the Mass participate in one of several Catholic homeschool support groups in the Charlotte area.

During the Mass, Bishop Jugis baptized two babies.

In his homily, Bishop Jugis reminded the parents of their role as "first teachers of their children in the ways of faith." He spoke of creating an environment in their homes where the "flame of faith" given to each child at his or her baptism can burn brightly and can be protected from the damaging winds of this tumultuous world.

The bishop commended all those in attendance for taking so seriously the responsibility of being the first and primary educators of their children.

"It was uplifting to have the bishop's blessing and to realize that homeschooling is a ministry," said Gayle Fitzgerald, who, with her husband Paul, homeschool three of their five children.

Sandi Winiarski will begin homeschooling her daughter this year.

"Our decision to homeschool was already made when we went to the Mass, but the bishop's words confirmed it," said Winiarski.

"I was surprised to see so many people there. I didn't realize how many Catholic homeschoolers there were in the area," she said. "It helped my daughter to see all the kids there, too."

According to figures from the Seton Home Study School of Virginia, homeschooling has become popular with many Catholic families. The decision to educate one's children at home may be motivated by a variety of reasons, but the primary concern of Catholic homeschooling parents is to give their children a Catholic education.

After Communion at the special Mass, a child from each family processed

to the statue of the Blessed Mother and presented her with a flower. The home schooling families then presented Bishop Jugis with a "spiritual bouquet."

The spiritual donations are to be given during the 2005-2006 school year and include 1,779 rosaries, 127 Masses, 15 novenas, 670 chaplets and 299 holy hours and other acts of charity and sacrifice.

Dan and Beth Ohlhaut are parishioners of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Catholic home schooling, contact Beth Ohlhaut at (704) 933-0864.



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Anyone interested in this expression is encouraged to attend, with or without previous movement or dance experience.

Cost: \$45 - commuter (lunch included)
\$75 - overnight

A collection of love



COURTESY PHOTO

Emily Wright, 10, recently donated 670 books, videotapes and video games she collected over the summer as part of a school project to Catherine's House in Belmont, a transitional facility for women and women with children who are homeless. Emily and her family delivered the items to Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, president and CEO of Catherine's House, Aug. 23.

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FROM THE COVER

Lions and learning



COURTESY PHOTO

Children display their lion masks during Vacation Bible School, this year themed "Serengeti Trek," at Holy Spirit Church in Denver Aug. 1-5. Almost 100 children and 50 volunteers participated in the week of songs, games, crafts and Bible lessons in the parish's new activity center.

Activity center built to meet parish growth in Denver

ACTIVITY, from page 1

classrooms, three offices, chapel, sacristy, kitchen, locker room and 7,128 square-foot multipurpose room.

The activity center will be used for faith formation, parish celebrations, sporting activities and fundraising activities. This summer the parish held its largest Vacation Bible School to date, with more than 100 kids participating.

"The center will allow us to fill a need for growth in the area and will help draw people already in the parish closer to the church," said Randy DeMao, a parishioner and former member of the building committee and pastoral council.

"You certainly have waited a long time for the dedication of this center," said Bishop Jugis during his homily. The bishop served as administrator of Holy Spirit Church from November 1998 until June 1999.

It was in 1999 that the pastoral council began a survey as a result of parish growth. The survey indicated a pressing need for classrooms, youth activities and programs and parish activities, as well as more space and better kitchen facilities.

Coupled with growth projections from the diocesan Office of Planning, which predicted a congregation of 375 families by 2005, plans were finalized in 2001 for the parish activity center and the capital campaign began in 2002.

The parish currently has more than 400 families, many of whom were involved in the construction efforts. Parishioners had "work parties" for about six months to paint the gym, classrooms, halls and chapel, to lay tile, stain doors and paint doorframes, to install memorial bricks at the front entrance.

"Everything was done by the people, inside and out. They worked hard," said Father Ayathupadam. "It was a big undertaking, but something great is done."

Bishop Jugis said it was important to bless the building and "ask God's blessing to come down and remain with it forever."

"It is a holy place where Catholics will gather, where young people and adults will be taught the faith and where the body of Christ, which you are, will gather for various parish activities," he

said. "Therefore, this is a holy place."

Bishop Jugis said the building should not be considered a separate building from the church, but an extension of it.

"The holy Eucharist is the source and summit and it is celebrated each week here in the church," said the bishop. "What happens there in the center finds its source here in the church, where we celebrate the love of Christ. It cannot be separated from what happens here."

Years of growth

Holy Spirit Church's history includes a period of years without a structure for the congregation to call home.

Then-Bishop Michael J. Begley established a mission in Denver during the late 1970s due to the growing Catholic population. With no church building, Mass was celebrated for about 20 people at a nearby Episcopal church beginning in March 1979.

By 1987, more than 100 families were worshipping together at Mass.

In May 1988, the Diocese of Charlotte purchased a former school building that was considered a community landmark. The building was renovated to include a nave, sanctuary, offices, classrooms, living quarters and space for social events.

The new church was ready by Christmas 1988, and the first Mass was celebrated Dec. 25. Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue blessed the structure in May 1989.

By 1996, about 265 families were worshipping at Holy Spirit Church, which was by then a mission of St. Therese Church in Mooresville. On May 31, 1998, Holy Spirit Church was officially designated as a parish in a ceremony presided by then-Bishop William G. Curlin.

In July of that same year, a new rectory was purchased and furnished. Ground was broken for the activity center Dec. 7, 2003.

"We desperately needed this building," said Cathy Touchstone, pastoral council chair. "It's hard to believe it's finally here."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more on Holy Spirit Church's history, read the parish profile on its Web page at www.charlottediocese.org/parishes-all.html.

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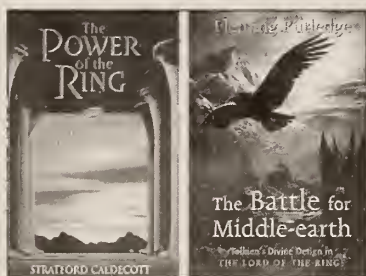
Two books on Tolkien's Catholic vision in 'The Lord of the Rings'

REVIEWED BY JEAN GONZALEZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A student persuaded J.R.R. Tolkien to publish "The Hobbit," a book he had written for his children. When adults unexpectedly embraced the 1937 book, his publishers called for a sequel.

Almost two decades later, Tolkien presented his epic: "The Lord of the Rings." Too large for a single book, it was published as a trilogy and has had a large adult audience ever since. That audience was broadened in recent years by a film trilogy and video strategy games that took Middle-earth into new media.

An online search finds more than 300 book titles commenting on the trilogy and its author. Now two new books look at



the spirituality and Catholic influence in Tolkien's works.

"The Power of the Ring: The Spiritual Vision Behind 'The Lord of the Rings'" is a relatively short, but jam-packed, offering from Stratford Caldecott, a Catholic lay scholar and director of the Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture in Oxford, England.

Caldecott begins with a lesson on Tolkien's history and love for the Catholic faith. Tolkien was raised by a Catholic priest, who was a friend of the family, after his mother died when he was 12.

Tolkien discussed his epic novel in letters written to his son, Christopher, and in companion works about the history of Middle-earth. Caldecott uses these writings to explain Tolkien's spirituality in his own words. Caldecott identifies grace,

marriage and a "sacramental universe" as elements in "The Lord of the Rings" that reveal a Catholic influence.

Caldecott's book is not an easy read; it requires concentration and patience. That may not deter "Ring" enthusiasts. But the first page should read: "Heavy references ahead. No novices allowed." This is not a book for a person hoping to gain background knowledge before picking up the trilogy.

"The Battle for Middle-earth: Tolkien's Divine Design in 'The Lord of the Rings'" is a more gentle read. Its author, the Rev. Fleming Rutledge, an Episcopal priest with previously published works including "The Bible and The New York Times," shows an obvious love for Tolkien's work.

Rev. Rutledge describes his own work as a "theological narrative" that seeks to "specifically identify the allusions to a transcendent agency that Tolkien has placed along the way."

Like Caldecott, Rev. Rutledge refers to Tolkien's letters to support his theories. He says it was part of Tolkien's plan that the characters and setting of "The Lord of the Rings" do not demonstrate a religion. Using a letter Tolkien wrote to fellow author C.S. Lewis (who wrote "The Chronicles of Narnia"), Rev. Rutledge explains how Tolkien hoped to reach two types of readers: Christian believers and those who have no theistic faith.

Comparing the narrative structure of Tolkien to the narrative structures in the Old and New Testaments, he says Tolkien hoped to reach unbelievers through a majestic story that included a disguised theological design.

At 373 pages, Rev. Rutledge's book is an enjoyable read that can be digested bit by bit. Readers should be familiar with Tolkien's characters and settings to appreciate Rev. Rutledge's book, although the book could inspire those who have not read the trilogy to pick up the masterpiece for themselves.

Gonzalez serves as projects editor for The Florida Catholic in Orlando.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 25, 2005

Sept. 25, Twenty-sixth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 18:25-28
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
- 2) Philippians 2:1-11
- 3) Matthew 21:28-32

Actions over appearances

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Catholics used to be easier to spot in a crowd.

When our religious medals glittered in the locker room or at the beach, when we crossed ourselves at the foul line or passing in front of the parish church, when our gardens were decorated with statues of Mary or St. Francis, when we unwrapped our aromatic tuna sandwiches on Friday in the cafeteria, we knew that others recognized us as Catholic.

Lots of those external markers of Catholicism have become less visible in recent years. Many have lamented that change and wished for a restoration of such distinctive signals of Catholic identity.

While such a move could have significant benefits for the spiritual lives of individuals and for the mission of the church, Paul's exhortation to the Philippians in Sunday's Mass readings proposes an entirely more transformative way to distinguish ourselves as Catholics.

"Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves," he urges them and us. It's a simple enough instruction, but deeply challenging.

What would our families look like if visitors to our homes saw, in addition to religious icons, people treating not only guests but one another as if the other's needs were paramount? How would our parishes appear to neighborhood observers if the cardinal rule for our communal attitude and behavior were putting our own needs second to those of the other?

What would our nation look like if Catholics as a body supported public policy that saw other nations and peoples as more important than ourselves or that put the needs of the world's poor and powerless, from womb to tomb and from pole to pole, ahead of our own?

May our hearing of the Gospel so move us to conversion that when people see us in the public square our Catholic identity shines forth, not only in our explicitly religious symbols but in our imitation of Christ, who poured himself out for the sake of love.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18-24

Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Matthew 20:1-16; Monday (St. Januarius), Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; Tuesday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions), Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; Wednesday (St. Matthew), Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; Thursday, Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; Friday Haggai 2:1-9, Luke 9:18-22; Saturday, Zachariah 2:5-9, 14-15 Jeremiah 31:10-13, Luke 9:43-45.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 1

Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32; Monday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian), Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; Tuesday (St. Vincent de Paul), Zachariah 8:20-23, Luke 9:51-56; Wednesday (St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, St. Wenceslaus), Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; Thursday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael), Revelation 12:7-12, John 1:47-51; Friday (St. Jerome), Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; Saturday (St. Therese of the Child Jesus), Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24.

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Director of 'Emily Rose' hopes film prompts viewers to examine faith

NEW YORK (CNS) — The director and co-writer of "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" said he wants the movie's patrons to ask themselves, "Is there a devil? and, more importantly, is there a God? and, if so, what's the implication of that?"

"Those are questions to be reckoned with, and I'm unabashed in the belief that everyone has to reckon with those questions," said Scott Derrickson. "In some way, everyone lives their life based on what they believe."

"This movie is intended to stretch and provoke everyone who sees it, including Christians," he added.

Echoing the closing argument made by a lawyer played by Laura Linney in the movie: "Either there's a God or there's not. And whichever way you decide, it's still a terrifying aspect to contemplate."

Derrickson said one purpose of making "Emily Rose" was precisely to ask these questions, although to do so he had to make "a scary, entertaining film."

"The research phase (of the movie) was horrible," Derrickson said. "I must have read two dozen books on possession. I viewed a lot of video of real exorcisms. ... That was a part of the (research process) I'll never do again."

Asked if he believes people, even devout Christians, can be possessed, Derrickson replied, "I do."

"It's an important theological question," said Derrickson, a Presbyterian who calls himself "very close" to becoming Catholic.

"The manner in which I would answer it is ... that I do not believe that a spirit-filled Christian can become demon-possessed," he said.

"However, what I will say is that for every one of those theological rules that we like to systematically create, there are

often exceptions. I don't believe that God will tell me to commit a sin, but he told Abraham to murder his son," he said.

Making a movie with conspicuous religious and theological content is not the easiest thing to do in Hollywood, Derrickson admitted.

He noted that the movie got the green light "one weekend after 'The Passion (of the Christ)' opened, but it also happened to be the weekend the head of Screen Gems (studio) read the script," Derrickson said.

Derrickson and his co-writer, Paul Boardman, took only essential elements from the 1976 German exorcism case and subsequent criminal trial for "Emily Rose," but concocted their own trial to raise the questions they wanted to ask.

"The courtroom is the perfect theater for these ideas that, ultimately, that case touched on, that relate to these ideas about faith, belief and skepticism," Boardman said.

"We knew we had elements that would make it commercially credible," tying the horror and courtroom genres "in a way that would make it fresh ... with the thematic depth we wanted to plumb," Boardman added.

"The Exorcism of Emily Rose" is "a sober consideration of faith and the mystery of evil," wrote David DiCerto, a staff critic for the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting. DiCerto added it was "a well-crafted and intelligent movie that aspires to engage heads and not just spin them," as did the 1973 movie blockbuster "The Exorcist."

"The Exorcism of Emily Rose" is classified A-III — adults — by the film and broadcasting office for "disturbing scenes of demonic possession, a brief but violent vehicular homicide, and a grisly death image, as well as minimal crude language."

This 'Life' worth finishing



CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX

Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman star in "An Unfinished Life," a captivating story of a rancher — caregiver to a ranch hand mauled by a bear — who gives shelter to his son's widow and the granddaughter he never knew he had. The film is sensitively acted and vividly conveys an admirable message about forgiveness and letting go of the past. Despite profanity, rough language and irreligious remarks, some brief episodes of domestic violence and implied premarital sex, the film is uplifting entertainment for adults and mature adolescents. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pope to canonize five in October ceremony

POPE, from page 1

signed or approved any decrees that would conclude pending causes for a beatification or canonization, said Vatican officials. In an attempt to highlight the difference between a beatification and a canonization, Pope Benedict is presiding over canonizations only.

Those who have been beatified and are scheduled to become saints Oct. 23 are:

— Blessed Jozef Bilczewski. As archbishop of Lviv, Poland he helped numerous Catholics, Orthodox and Jews during World War I.

— Blessed Zygmunt Gorazdowski. As a priest in Lviv, he founded homes for

the poor, homeless, abandoned children and single mothers. In 1884, he founded the Sisters of Mercy of St Joseph.

— Blessed Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga. A Jesuit priest in Chile, he taught and worked with the poor. He also started the Hogar de Cristo movement, which provides vocational training and other services for young people.

— Blessed Felice da Nicosia. He was often humiliated, even by his fellow Capuchin brothers, for his illiteracy. He collected donations for the monastery and visited jailed prisoners every Sunday.

— Blessed Gaetano Catanoso. A priest of the Archdiocese of Reggio Calabria-Bova, Italy, and founder of the Congregation of the Daughters of Saint Veronica.

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PORTRAYING A SAINT

Parishioners to perform play on St. Francis

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — St. Francis — the “Poverello,” the little poor man of Assisi — gave up privileges in this life, and parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville feel honored to portray him and those who shared his life.

The church will present “Il Poverello” Sept. 30, Oct. 2 and 3. Admission is free.

“It’s a privilege and a lot of fun,” said Maria Ashbrook, who plays Lady Jacoba, one of Francis’ supporters. “I fell in love with Francis when I was in college, and since then I’ve had a deep devotion.”

Ashbrook admires Francis’ “personality, his charm, his acceptance, the way he found God in all things, his simplicity.”

Those qualities come across in this play, written by Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvas, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church. “Il Poverello” tells of Francis’ passionate life — his love of “Lady Poverty” and his ardent desire to live as Jesus did.

“I wanted to give something of my Franciscan spirituality to the parish,” said Father Salvas.

Frank Kelsch brings to the role the same passion he had when he portrayed Christ in the parish’s paschal drama.

“Francis was the second Christ,” Kelsch said. “It’s a great privilege to play one of the great saints of the church. With (Father Salvas’) script, it’s a chance to contemplate the life of Francis To even try to put yourself in the same position as Christ and Francis, you realize what they sacrificed.”

Perhaps more than any other person in history, Francis lived like Christ: owning nothing, ministering to those in need. Toward the end of his life he prayed to Jesus, “to experience in myself in all possible fullness the pains of your cruel passion and to feel for you the same love which made you sacrifice for us.”

He received Christ’s wounds in his hands, feet and side, the first recorded stigmatic.

“Il Poverello” will present Francis’ life, from his early experience as a soldier through his conversion to Christ, disciples gathering to him, the founding of the Franciscan Order and receiving Clare as the first woman Franciscan, to the stigmata, and his “transitus” from this life to eternity as he welcomes “Sister Death.”

Oct. 3, the eve of the feast of St. Francis, is the usual time for celebrating the transitus. At the end of the Oct. 3 performance, in another ceremony traditionally held that night, the friars stationed at Immaculate Conception Church will renew their vows.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Lady Jacoba (Maria Ashbrook) comforts St. Francis (Frank Kelsch) as he dies. The rehearsal is for a scene in “Il Poverello,” a play about the life and death of St. Francis being performed at Immaculate Conception Church Sept. 30, Oct. 2 and 3.

In addition, members of the St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity will renew their promises as members of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO).

“It’s been enlightening for me; the story opened my eyes,” said Sherry Glatzer, who is working on the play’s props. “I had no idea how the Franciscan brothers started or about the life of St. Francis.”

Even for Secular Franciscans Bill Stewart and Randy Hair, “Il Poverello” has brought a deeper appreciation of St. Francis.

“It gives me a new feeling for the life of Francis,” said Stewart, who made his perpetual profession last year, and is portraying Brother Illuminato.

When Francis dies, Stewart is one of the Franciscan brothers carrying lighted candles throughout the church to the strains of “Salve Regina” in Gregorian chant — the traditional hymn when a friar’s body is carried to its burial.

The play, Stewart said, helps him to appreciate “what we talk about in SFO by living (the life of one of the first Franciscans). You’re close to it the whole time you’re here, and it makes you closer to the people here.”

“It’s opened more of the life of St. Francis,” said Hair, who portrays Brother Masseo and is a candidate for permanent profession as a Secular Franciscan.

“When (Father Salvas) came out and said, ‘Do you realize this man has 74,000 followers (in the three orders)?’ I realized we’re part of a huge spiritual group, and it’s ever-growing,” said Hair.

“(Father Salvas) is just so talented,” Kelsch said. “He has a vision that brings it all together. He takes great joy in the subject, and that translates to all of us.”

“Il Poverello” has done for the cast members what they hope it will do for those who come to see the life of St. Francis of Assisi. As the flier for the drama says, “Be inspired by the one who put flesh on the Gospel.”

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

WANT TO GO?

“Il Poverello” will be performed at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Friday, Sept. 30; Sunday, Oct. 2; and Monday, Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Take I-26 to Exit 49B (old Exit 18B), Hwy. 64 west. Follow Hwy. 64 to the church, 208 Seventh Ave. West. The church has front and rear parking areas. If parking at the rear of the church, an elevator is available to take you to the main church.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

As the hurricane winds howled and whizzed by

Bishop Steib reflects on Katrina experience

Sunday morning, Aug. 28, began with the sun shining ever so brightly! I was at Divine Word Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Miss., visiting with the members of the community.

However, Hurricane Katrina was churning the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The forecast called for the hurricane to hit landfall at the mouth of the Mississippi River and perhaps slide more westward. But by mid-afternoon it became clearer that the Gulf Coast was more and more involved in the path of the storm.

At the same time, it was too late to leave the seminary either to go to Louisiana or to return to Memphis because of the traffic congestion and the evacuation plans involving the interstates.

I had weathered many hurricanes at the seminary. It was located on the highest ground in Bay St. Louis. For many years it served as a shelter for the community and many of the townspeople. Moreover, several years ago the seminary had acquired a generator in case of hurricanes.

I thought the seminary was as safe a shelter as possible. And it was — until the water surge Monday morning!

It was unbelievable how quickly the water rose about 6 feet above the ground! It was incredible how easily the water rose to 2 and one-half feet on the first floor of Christmann Hall where the priests and brothers lived.

It was not a pretty sight to watch some 30 cars floating in the water, trunks and windows opened to let in the water, until they disappeared! It was like being on an ocean.

All of this was happening while the hurricane winds were howling and whizzing by, carrying leaves and tree branches, tiles and roofs, garbage cans and frames of all kinds, and debris from near and far.

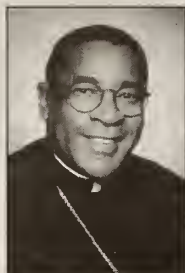
Contingent plans were made should we have to go to the roof! Unfortunately, there was no escape hatch to the flat roof building. Yet, thank God, the water surge reached a peak, and slowly the water began to recede.

We were on the "bad side" of the hurricane for nine hours. We had heard in the morning that the eye of the hurricane would pass over Bay St. Louis, but that was not the case!

That night, amid soggy floors and dripping roofs, amid candlelights and flashlights, we thanked God that Hurricane Katrina had passed, and we tried to

Guest Column

BISHOP TERRY J. STEIB, SVD
GUEST COLUMNIST



assess the situation.

Other people made their way to the seminary with their horrifying tales of how they had to escape from their homes, or climb to their attics, or get on top of their roofs, or cling to trees. It was a night that will not soon be forgotten.

Early the next morning, I went walking outside to pray Morning Prayer. It was an eerie feeling to pray in the midst of rubble, fallen trees and pockets of water.

Psalm 37 from the Office of Readings said: "Calm your anger, and forget your rage; do not fret, it only leads to evil. For those who do evil shall perish; the patient shall inherit the land."

How appropriate! How easy it would be to blame nature, blame others or, worse, to blame God for what happened. Yet, as I prayed, I looked to the east. Through the leafless and branchless trees that withstood the ravages of the hurricane, through the pine trees whose tops were snapped to the ground like toothpicks, the sun was coming through bright and clear!

The dragon flies were flying here and there! There is life! God is still with us! And the sun was proof to me that God is still good — all the time!

It is from my experience of this disaster that I ask the people of the Diocese of Memphis to welcome the sisters and brothers of Hurricane Katrina. Join me in welcoming our sisters and brothers from the dioceses of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast as they come to us for safe haven in order to put their lives together again.

Let us make them feel at home as they contemplate their future. Let us be their home away from home in their social, educational and spiritual life.

Let us pray with them as they give thanks to a good and gracious God.

Bishop Terry J. Steib is bishop of Memphis, Tenn.

People's daily lives must include place for God, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A reminder of God's transcendent nature needs to be at the center of people's daily lives, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

Just as David dedicated himself to providing a dwelling place for the Lord, such a visible dwelling place is still important to have in today's cities and communities, he added.

In his Sept. 14 catechesis, Pope Benedict highlighted Psalm 132, "The Pact Between David and the Lord," which celebrates "the solemn transport of the Ark of the Covenant, sign of the divine presence" of God in the midst of the people of Jerusalem.

The pope came to Rome by helicopter from his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo to hold his general audience in St. Peter's Square before some 20,000 pilgrims from all over the world.

The psalm depicting David, who would not rest before he found a dwelling place for the Lord, "is very important because it shows that in the center of daily life, of a city, of a community, there must be a presence that evokes the transcendent mystery of God, that is, a place for God to dwell," he said.

The temple or a sacred place for

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



worship serves as a "visible sign" of the sharing that takes place between God and humanity, that God and humanity have always walked together throughout history, he said.

A person "cannot walk easily without God," for it is God who leads the way; a place of worship is a visible sign of "this communion" and that the faithful "let themselves be guided by God," he said.

The pope said each individual is also called to be "a home for God."

"God's true dwelling place was not made of wood, but was made of flesh and blood. It was Our Lady who offered herself to the Lord as the Ark of the Covenant," the pope said in remarks apart from his written text.

Mary "invites us to be the dwelling place and womb for God in the world," he said.

36 Million Immigrants

Less than a third of those born in other countries are in the U.S. illegally.



Become more worker, less consumer

Catholic Church promotes dignified work, shuns consumption

With the defection of three unions from the AFL-CIO, organized labor appears split over the appropriate strategy to fight for the rights of workers. Once boasting membership of one-third the workforce, unions now represent only 12.5 percent.

Over the last quarter century, globalization, a shrinking manufacturing base, the decline of employer-employee loyalty and successful efforts to diminish the rights of workers have taken traction away from the union movement. Labor added to its own problems with occasional cronyism and inadequate responses to workers' needs.

Friends of labor recognize the need for reform coupled with a combined strategy of greater grassroots organization and political action. The split in labor revolves around the disagreement over the degree of funding for each effort.

Since Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum" in 1891, the church has highlighted the social dimensions of work and affirmed the rights of workers. Historically, the conditions of the working class appear less desperate than a century ago, yet today the problem of mass poverty has shifted to one of mass insecurity. Millions lack health care; retirees forfeit pensions, families live one paycheck away from calamity, and in real terms and wages remain static over 30 years.

At the time of Pope Leo XIII's writing, industry barons promoted a shift in self-perception among Americans from

Faith & the Marketplace

GLENMARY
FATHER JOHN
S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST



worker to consumer. Over the past quarter century, that thinking has dramatically changed from a working-class consciousness to sink-or-swim individualism. The admonition: earning money heightens consumption, privatizing insurance brings greater riches and joining unions is passé.

Yet, the safety net that promises a dignified life for every worker and citizen continues to fray one strand at a time.

Without a working-class consciousness, workers' organizations will never deliver their potential. Historically, people died fighting for the right to organize. Unions fought to end child labor and secure an eight-hour day. Unions backed safety and health standards, Social Security, unemployment insurance and the minimum wage.

The church recognizes all these benefits as the rights of workers. But the social dimension of work must address the particular needs of workers today.

Respect on the job and dignified work head the list. No person can be regarded merely as a cog in the wheel

for profit, because each worker reflects the image of God. Workers need more flex time for family needs, essential minimum benefits and a greater part of the profits. These too reflect the teachings of the church about work.

Probably, the greatest contribution the church can make in reestablishing a consciousness about work comes from a theology of work. Biblically, work is divine activity. God worked in creating the world (Gen. 2:2) and God referred to redemption as work (Is. 29:23).

In addition, God put humanity in the garden "to cultivate and care for it" (Gen. 2:15). Humanity becomes a co-gardener with God. Every time workers use their creativity or contribute to society, or every time they promote reconciliation and justice, they participate in divine activity.

Liturgically, during the intercessions at Morning Prayer (Week III in the breviary), the church prays, "Make our work today benefit our brothers and sisters, that with them and for them we may build an earthly city, pleasing to you." Here's the spirituality of work in a nutshell.

The church promotes dignified and communal work. It shuns mindless consumption. The liturgical year celebrates St. Joseph the Worker as well as St. Isidore the Farmer with his companion-spouse, St. Mary de la Cabeza. It makes no mention of St. Wal-Mart, the Shopper.

Glenmary Father Rausch serves as peace and justice director for the mission diocese of Lexington, Ky.

Obligation to participate in Mass

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. Sometimes I have a hard time getting to Mass, so I listen to one on television. Can't we just fulfill our Sunday obligation by watching Mass on television? (Florida)

A. I've responded to this type of question several times in past years. The answer is basically simple. The Mass is not a private prayer, but, except for special circumstances, is an act of worship of God that essentially involves other members of our community of faith.

Many Catholics still do not realize that the responsibility of Sunday Mass does not oblige us to hear or watch someone else do something, but to be present to do it ourselves with our fellow Catholics.

In other words, the Eucharist is an action, a celebration, of the Catholic community. It cannot be replaced by seeing a television program.

If, for a legitimate reason, one cannot be present in church for Sunday Mass, a television or radio Mass may help us unite with it in spirit. It may also serve to increase our desire for union with Christ in the Eucharist. But such listening or viewing is never a substitute for being there.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

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Give the devil his due

Exorcism rite is more celebration, less mystery

I was all set for exorcism calls from the media. I was ready to talk about Satan and give the reporters a devil of a story.

What possessed me to prepare for such an event? A new movie, "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," opened this past weekend and as the name implies, it is about the little known, somewhat secretive Catholic rite of exorcism.

The movie trailers emphasize horror, apparently in an attempt to connect the film to the 1973 blockbuster, "The Exorcist." That movie made vomit-spewing, head-spinning actress Linda Blair a household name. "The Exorcist" created a sensation that earned it \$440 million and spawned four sequels.

Apparently, the appetite for exorcism/entertainment is still pretty strong. The new film earned \$30 million in its first weekend. But viewers in search of a horror fix may have been disappointed. Film reviewers say "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" is really a courtroom drama about an exorcism that pits the practice of medicine against the practice of faith. Reviewers were positive about the movie and especially about the quality of its acting.

The bigger question for me though is, Why is exorcism so closely associated with horror and why is it wrapped in a mystery? Jesus cast out demons in the

Gospels of Matthew and Luke and he gave his disciples the authority to do so.

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

The Catholic Church clearly has a firm theological basis for performing exorcisms and many forms of exorcism have been practiced since the earliest days of the church. Most Catholics are more familiar with the rite of exorcism than they might realize. The denunciation of Satan and all his evil works and the prayer which asks God to set children free from original sin are both part of the sacrament of baptism and are referred to as minor exorcisms.

Is there any doubt that evil exists in the world, or that the only way to combat evil is with the grace of God? So why is an exorcism viewed as some kind of oddball practice found in horror movies?

Perhaps it is the way we approach the rite of exorcism. It was updated by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 1998. The rite includes a prohibition from broadcasting it in any media. It's understandable that someone who is tormented by the forces of darkness would not want to share the experience on the

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR



evening news.

But this prohibition perpetuates a mystery about our faith that, in the hands of the wrong people (e.g., movie producers), can lead to voodoo-like images.

So in case anyone ever asks you about exorcism, you can first amaze them by properly describing it as a celebration — an exorcism is a kick in the devil's fanny, so who wouldn't celebrate?

Then, in addition to pointing out that it has a scriptural basis, explain that the rite describes an exorcist as a priest, selected by a bishop, who is a man of piety, knowledge, prudence and holiness of life. The priest-exorcist initially approaches the possessed person as he would anyone who suffers from physical or psychological illness. He doesn't assume diabolic possession until he has conducted a diligent investigation that includes extensive consultation with spiritual, medical and psychological experts.

Once those criteria have been met, devil beware — a man of Christ is coming to take you out!

The rite of exorcism is something of which Catholics should be proud.



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Bishop William Curlin - Eucharistic Holy Hour Homily -- Bishop Curlin is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte.



Bishop Peter Jugis - "Welcome" -- Bishop Jugis is the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

General Track



James Caviezel - Actor; best known for his stunning performance as Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ." His testimony about his Catholic faith is as riveting as any of his screen performances.

Kerri Caviezel - wife of the well-known actor and a dynamic speaker in her own right



Scott Hahn - "The Lamb's Supper" -- Dr. Hahn is currently a Professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He is well known, both nationally and internationally, for inspiring audiences as he explores topics relating Scripture to our Catholic faith.



Johnnette Benkovic - "In His Eucharistic Heart" -- Ms. Benkovic is the founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International, Inc., a Catholic evangelization apostolate with worldwide outreaches in television, radio, print and Internet communications.



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio - "Feast of Faith" -- Dr. D'Ambrosio is a specialist in the interpretation of sacred Scripture and tradition. His teaching covers a broad range of subjects from historical, dogmatic, and sacramental theology to evangelization. (also will speak in Hispanic Track)



Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa - "Stay With Us" -- Fr. Cantalamessa was appointed in 1980 by Pope John Paul II and continues to serve as official "Homilist to the Papal Household." (also will speak in Hispanic Track)

Hispanic Track



Dr. Dora Tobar - "Hostias Viva Para Un Mundo Con Hambre" -- Dr. Tobar is a professor of theology at Catholic University of America who specializes in leading spiritual retreats around the nation.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (see topic above)

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa (see topic above)

Teen Track



Fr. Francis Mary Stone, M.F.V.A. - "The Extreme Make-Over: Putting on the Armor of Christ" -- Fr. Stone, who appears frequently on EWTN, is a down-to-earth former financier and jock turned priest who leads young people to Christ.



Fr. Leo Patalinghug, S.T.L. - "Spiritual Combat" -- Fr. Patalinghug entertains and inspires young people with break-dancing and karate, which he compares to a spiritual battle. His message: "God is calling every one of you to do something."



Fr. Antoine Thomas - "Why Stay With Jesus?" -- Fr. Thomas understands how youth can embrace and be enriched by spending time with the Blessed Sacrament in schools and parishes; he also shares what adults can do to encourage the practice.



Charlie Aeschliman - "Basketball and Eucharistic Strength" -- Mr. Aeschliman is a former elite Navy S.E.A.L. and Basketball Handling Champion who presents a unique, fast-paced and fun character building talk.

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Mystery of the Mass, Part
26; eucharistic adoration list

|PAGE 7

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VOLUME 14 NO 43

Keeping a nation 'under God'

KNIGHTS, OTHER GROUPS
APPEAL NEW RULING ON
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Knights of Columbus and other parties in a lawsuit filed over the Pledge of Allegiance have appealed a federal judge's ruling that the pledge cannot be recited in public schools because of its reference to God.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton of Sacramento, Calif., said Sept. 14 that under a previous ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which found the practice unconstitutional, the current case is legally resolved already.

In the previous case, the Supreme Court ruled in June that Dr. Michael Newdow lacked the legal standing to sue

See PLEDGE, page 4

Tending the garden of faith



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Joey and Gracie Linus explore the Grandparent Garden at St. Matthew Church Sept. 17. The garden was dedicated by Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, during the Festival of Faith, which celebrated the church's 19th anniversary.

St. Matthew Church
celebrates 19th year with
parish festival

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church in southeast Charlotte celebrated its 19th anniversary and the feast of its patron in grand style Sept. 17.

The Festival of Faith celebration opened with morning Mass celebrated by Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, followed by a eucharistic procession in honor of the Year of the Eucharist. Father Carmen Malacari, parochial vicar, concelebrated the Mass.

"Today is a celebration of our eucharistic faith," said Msgr. McSweeney. "We also celebrate our diversity of cultures."

Later that morning, Msgr.

See FESTIVAL, page 5

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Catholics rallying for pro-life issues

Life Chains to be held around
Diocese of Charlotte

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholics will once again be standing up for life across the Diocese of Charlotte and the United States.

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, with Respect Life

Sunday falling on Oct. 2.

To help kick-off the month and show their support for life, hundreds of parishes in dioceses around the country are participating in Life Chains. In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishes will be standing along property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns. People

See LIFE, page 9



POSTER COURTESY OF CNS

The cover of the 2005-2006 Respect Life Program from the U.S. bishops.

HIS FINAL HOURS

Before his death, pope prayed to 'go to the house of the Father'

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's last words before his death were "Let me go to the house of the Father," according to the Vatican's official account of his final hours.

The pope murmured the phrase in Polish "with a very weak voice and mumbled words" to those gathered at his bedside six hours before he died April 2, the Vatican said.

The detailed chronology was contained in a special 223-page supplement to the "Acta Apostolica Sedis," the official record of Vatican documents and acts, released Sept. 19.

Most of the account deals with previously published information about the pope's deteriorating medical condition, the actions taken at his death, the arrangements for

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Triumph of the Cross
Many gather for annual
conference in Arden

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Culture Watch
Books on pope's theological
vision; JPII movie in works

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Perspectives
Katrina's blessings; the blame
game; marrying a relative

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

DE-SHROUDING THE MYSTERY



CNS PHOTO BY PAULA DOYLE, THE TIDINGS

Isabel Piczek, a Los Angeles liturgical artist whose artwork is displayed at the Vatican, was a featured presenter at the International Shroud of Turin Conference in Dallas Sept. 8-11.

Artist says shroud's image left on cloth at moment of Resurrection

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — World-renowned Los Angeles liturgical artist Isabel Piczek earned accolades for her breakthrough theory "opening new doors of research" at the International Shroud of Turin Conference in Dallas Sept. 8-11.

The conference drew 160 scientists, artists and physicians from around the world to share the latest research on the shroud, believed by many to portray a full-length image of the crucified Christ.

A Catholic and theoretical physicist, Piczek believes the image was left on the shroud at the moment of Christ's resurrection.

Using a statue she created as a visual aid that measures one-third the actual size of the man depicted on the shroud, Piczek presented her explanation of the image's "concealed bas-relief effect." She theorizes the image of the shroud was transported onto a straight and taut linen above and below the man's hovering body.

"One of the puzzling mysteries of the shroud is that the image transported to an absolutely straight, taut surface is not flat. It is semi-three-dimensional, very much the same as a bas-relief is in art," explained Piczek.

"In art, the bas-relief image always curves out of a straight background that radically eliminates the rest of the space behind the bas-relief," she said.

Refuting theories that the figure on

the shroud was painted, Piczek said the image's strong foreshortening of the body combined with the lack of a continuous film of a paint medium on the cloth's surface are "decisive arguments" that the shroud is not a painting.

According to Piczek, the foreshortening of the legs, reflecting the reclined figure's elevated knees, excludes the possibility of a contact image of any kind.

"An unknown system obeying laws different from optics created the image with strangely similar visual results," she said.

Piczek said she arrived at her theory during the creation of the shroud statue a month before.

Piczek, who holds degrees in art and particle physics, thinks this new explanation of how the image appeared warrants greater investigation of the nonimage area of the shroud. Such research could yield scientific clues to the "unknown information field" that caused the projection, according to her.

During the conference, botany expert Alan Whanger indicated that pollen and flowers on the shroud reveal plants native to Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. Other conference presenters discussed their analysis of the shroud's human bloodstains as well as biblical references to the shroud and an explanation of the cloth's "lost years" before it resurfaced in France in the 13th century.

Maryknoll nun completes prison term for SOA trespass conviction

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Maryknoll Sister Lelia Mattingly said her now-completed six-month prison term for trespassing last November at the home of the former School of the Americas deepened her faith and strengthened her resolve to work for the closure of the training facility for Latin American military.

Now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, the school at Fort Benning, Ga., is the site of an annual protest by demonstrators who say some of the worst violators of human rights in Latin America have been trained there.

The U.S. Department of Defense, which runs the school, says its curriculum teaches Latin American military personnel democratic principles and respect for human rights.

Sister Mattingly was one of 15 protesters arrested and charged with trespassing at last year's demonstration,

which drew a record 16,000 participants. This year's demonstration is set for Nov. 18-20.

After her release, she was greeted by a cheering group of more than 100 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York Sept. 12.

The Maryknoll nun, who served her sentence at Danbury Federal Correctional Facility in Danbury, Conn., said in a statement she was not planning to cross the line again at Fort Benning.

But because of what she called "continuing reports from Latin America of abuses" by military personnel trained at the Georgia facility and "because of the continuing degradation of U.S. foreign policies which have led us into an immoral, illegal, pre-emptive war on the people of Iraq," she said, "my conscience may lead me to challenge this drive to power and control of others' natural resources."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Catholic Social Services invites you to our second annual *Fiesta Tamale*, Oct. 1, 2-6 p.m. at 50 Orange St. Join us for authentic Mexican food, activities and music. Please call (828) 255-0146 for further information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-Annual Rosary Rally* will take place at Saint Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. The rally will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul, 6828 Old Reid Rd. will be dedicating *The Blessed Teresa of Calcutta pro-life memorial* on Oct. 16. The dedication will follow the 11:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis. A reception in the family center follows the dedication. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a support group for separated or divorced women and men. All are welcome to join us for encouragement and discussion with others making similar journeys at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center, Room 114. If you have any questions, call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Faith Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and third Mondays of each month. The group will read

"The Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese and a chapter will be covered every meeting. For more information, call Jordan (704) 737-1964 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* is celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumpdown Rd. For more Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Sons of Erin Mecklenburg County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is seeking Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, community activities and social events. Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-mail ncaoh@aol.com for more information including meeting times and location.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will start its 2005-2006 fiscal year with a luncheon Sept. 28, at Cardinal Country Club, 4108 Windlestraw Ln. The speaker will be Rosemary Plybon, "The Good Morning Show" anchor for WFMY News 2. For more information, contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Guilford County* will meet Oct. 6 in St. Pius X Church's Kloster Center, 2210 North Elm St. A representative from Legal Aid will speak at 7 p.m. At the meeting, plans will be finalized for the Irish Feis Dinner Dance, to be held Oct. 29. For more information, call Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Papal envoy says U.S. must not be abandoned during Katrina recovery

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — “The United States must not be abandoned” as it continues to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and begins to grapple with the poverty revealed by the disaster, said a special papal envoy.

Archbishop Paul Cordes, president of the Pontifical Council “Cor Unum,” said after a four-day visit to affected areas in Louisiana and Mississippi that he was afraid “the superpower may isolate itself and stay isolated” in the wake of the natural disaster.

As a sign of his personal solidarity, Pope Benedict XVI sent Archbishop Cordes to the United States Sept. 10-14 to meet with victims of the hurricane and with church and government officials.

While he had seen “terrible scenes” during his visit he had also witnessed “gestures of great humanity,” the arch-

bishop said Sept. 17

Many people had been shocked by the discovery of poverty in the country — a poverty, he said, that in some places was “shameful in rich America.”

He said members of the church had a duty to not abandon those in need in the United States.

“It is not only our ‘communio’ with members of our church and our human solidarity: There is more” that impels people to reach out to the United States at this time, he said.

He said Catholic Charities had made \$6 million available for relief efforts from the very beginning of the disaster, but he suggested more was needed. He said his visit to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, La., Biloxi, Miss., and other places “awakened renewed attention” to the need for additional humanitarian assistance.

Mass the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY -- The *Smoky Mountain Vicariate Eucharistic Assembly* will take place Oct. 1, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. Augustinian Father Frank Doyle will present “Lift up your hearts; see who you are, and become what you see,” followed by a bilingual liturgy and lunch. The assembly is free and open to the public. To register, call (828) 926-3833 or email LWCRC@main.nc.us.

FRANKLIN — *Respect Life* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastingcr at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Vatican denies it is hiding Croatian general accused of war crimes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican spokesman denied reports that the Vatican Secretariat of State has attempted to help hide a Croatian general accused of war crimes.

Carla del Ponte, chief prosecutor for the U.N. international tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, told a London newspaper she believes Gen. Ante Gotovina is hiding in a Franciscan monastery in Croatia.

In an interview published Sept. 20 in *The Daily Telegraph*, she said she had met with Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, Vatican foreign minister, in July seeking the Vatican's help in discovering which of roughly 80 monasteries in Croatia was sheltering the general.

“They said they have no intelligence and I don’t believe that,” she told the *Telegraph*. “I think that the Catholic Church has the most advanced intelligence services.”

“Msgr. Lajolo said to me, ‘Let me know in which monastery Gotovina is hiding.’ I said, if I knew, I would not be here in Rome,” the prosecutor said.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Sept. 20, “The Secretariat of State is not an organ of the Holy See that can collaborate institutionally with tribunals.”

He said Archbishop Lajolo asked del Ponte to explain why she believed the general was hiding in a monastery and to provide some indication of which monastery it might be so that he could contact local church authorities.

Previous investigations of rumors that the general was hiding in a church building “had a negative outcome,” Navarro-Valls said.

The spokesman said that as of Sept. 20 del Ponte had provided the Vatican with no further details about her suspicions.

Gotovina was indicted in 2001 on charges that he was the commanding officer responsible for atrocities committed in 1995 as Croatian forces attempted to reclaim control of the Krajina region. Some 150 Serb civilians were killed and more than 150,000 were displaced.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Park and Campgrounds, 7081 NC 181 N., Oct. 1 at 11:30 a.m., with Mass at 12 p.m. A covered-dish lunch will follow. Other events will include music, witnessing and hiking nature trails until 3:30 p.m. For directions and more information, call Mary Hennie at (704) 637-6064 or e-mail mjhennie@msn.com.

NEWTON — The *Brother Francis Secular Franciscan Fraternity* will be celebrating the death of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St. All are invited to come for the Transitus service and the reception afterwards in the Family Center. For more information, call (828) 466-1664.

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday’s Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will host the *Personal Foundation Program with Rosemary Santillo*, a professional life and business coach. The free sessions will take place Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 and 19. Attend all sessions or just come for one that sparks your interest. To register, call the faith formation office at (704) 664-7762 or e-mail dconklin@sainttherese.net. For more information about Rosemary Santillo and her programs, visit Coaching at Reflection Rock at www.reflectionrock.com.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing*

Katrina's wrath



CNS PHOTO BY FRANK J. METHE, CLARION HERALD

New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes surveys the destruction at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Slidell, La., Sept. 17. After the roof collapsed the church was flooded by the storm surge created by Hurricane Katrina. The parish elementary school also suffered severe flooding.

\$3 million in missions money pledged to hurricane-affected dioceses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops’ Committee on Home Missions received approval Sept. 14 from the bishops’ Administrative Committee to spend more than \$3 million from its reserve funds to dioceses dealing with Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

The funds will be spent in both mission and nonmission dioceses — a situation that required approval of the Administrative Committee, which handles the business affairs of the U.S. bishops in

between their general meetings.

Grants will be made to dioceses affected by the hurricane as well as to other dioceses incurring substantial costs in offering relief to hurricane refugees. The grants will be made “in the most equitable way possible,” according to a U.S. bishops’ announcement Sept. 19.

The funds would be used either for immediate relief for people, or for lessening the damage done to diocesan or parish infrastructure and to ministry programs.

Episcopal calendar

Sept. 30 — 1:45 p.m. Mass
Teacher In-service Day
Charlotte Catholic High School

Oct. 1 — 9 a.m.
Catechist Enrichment Day, Southern Region
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Oct. 1 — 5 p.m.
50th Anniversary Celebration
St. Stephen Church, Elkin

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 2 — 11 a.m.
Diaconate Ordination, Agostino Fernandez, O.S.B.
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

Oct. 2-7
Priests’ Retreat
Maggie Valley

Oct. 9 — 9 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, Boone

O, say, can you sing?

School performance promotes National Anthem project

HUNTERSVILLE — “The Star-Spangled Banner” never sounded so good.

Students, teachers and staff of St. Mark School in Huntersville gathered in the school’s courtyard to sing the song Sept. 14. The performance — attended by parents, Huntersville Mayor Kim Phillips and members of the city council, police and fire departments — celebrated the launch of “The National Anthem Project: Restoring America’s Voice.”

The multiyear educational campaign is to encourage Americans to sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” while spotlighting the important role music education plays in giving Americans a patriotic voice.

The campaign, sponsored by The

National Association for Music Education, is the result of a Harris Interactive survey indicating two out of three U.S. adults do not know all the words to “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and many more did not know which song was the national anthem or why it was written.

The performance at St. Mark School was directed by Heidi Hickox, general and choral music teacher, and Brian Joyce, band teacher. The event included a remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001, and the history of the national anthem.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on The National Anthem Project, visit www.thenationalanthemproject.org.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Heidi Hickox, music teacher at St. Mark School in Huntersville, leads students, teachers and staff in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner” in the school courtyard Sept. 14. The performance celebrated The National Anthem Project.

Below: A giant American flag is suspended over the courtyard from a fire truck’s ladder during the performance.



Knights, others appeal Pledge ruling

PLEDGE, from page 1

his daughter’s California school district over the practice of reciting the pledge.

The high court declined to decide whether the words “under God” made it unconstitutional to recite the pledge in public schools.

Five of the justices rejected the case because Newdow did not have legal custody of his daughter; he said he was challenging the pledge on her behalf. Her mother, Sandra L. Banning, who has primary custody, opposed the legal effort.

Three of the eight justices who ruled on the case said they thought Newdow did have legal standing to sue, but they joined the other five in rejecting the case because they believed the pledge is constitutional.

The new lawsuit was again filed by Newdow, a physician and an attorney who represented himself before the Supreme Court last March, but this time with the participation of other students who live in four Sacramento-area school districts.

Karlton’s Sept. 14 decision said that because the Supreme Court did not reverse the 9th Circuit ruling in favor of Newdow’s original claim that decision


prevails and the practice of reciting the pledge is unconstitutional.

Karlton did not issue a restraining order to stop the schools from saying the pledge while appeals proceed, but said he would consider motions requesting such an order. A 9th Circuit ruling would only apply to states within that jurisdiction, comprised of nine Western states and the Pacific territories.

On Sept. 19, the Becket Fund, a religious liberty law firm that represents the Knights of Columbus and 10 students who want to defend the practice of reciting the pledge, issued a statement saying an appeal had been filed.


The Knights of Columbus fraternal organization was a part of the successful 1954 effort to persuade Congress to add the words “under God” to the pledge. When Newdow filed his new lawsuit, the organization was given permission to join the case as a defendant.


In a Sept. 15 statement, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said, “If freedom of religion in America means anything at all, it means that it’s just as constitutional to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, complete with the words ‘under God,’ as it is to read aloud the Declaration of Independence. They both express the same truth: that our fundamental rights come from God, our creator and not from government.”



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Fun, faith celebrated at St. Matthew Church

FESTIVAL, from page 1

McSweeney dedicated the Grandparent Garden, a meditation area between the church and the school honoring the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren. Among the paving bricks are 843 engraved bricks ordered by families of St. Matthew Church and School.

"The Grandparent Garden is dedicated to the vocation of grandparenting," said Msgr. McSweeney.

Each engraved brick carries a personal message and the names of the grandparents in whose honor or memory the brick was purchased.

Still a work in progress, the garden will include benches, a picnic table and landscaping. It will feature statues of St. Anne and St. Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus.

Following the morning's spiritual events, the festival kicked into high gear with about 300 people attending a carnival featuring vendors, Irish dancers, music, games and inflatable rides for the children.

"This is a day when we celebrate who we are as a faith community and

our growing diversity as a multicultural parish," said Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate. "This is a wonderful unifier for our parish."

Msgr. McSweeney also noted that people of all ages were involved in the festival as both participants and volunteers.

In addition to honoring grandparents and entertaining children, adults and teenagers worked at the rides, vendor and game booths.

The festival of faith has been celebrated every other year since 2001, the parish's 15th anniversary.

Since the announcement of its founding on Sept. 21, 1986, St. Matthew Church has grown to become the largest Catholic church in the Diocese of Charlotte, with more than 18,000 registered parishioners.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A young girl enjoys the inflatable slide at St. Matthew Church's Festival of Faith Sept. 17. The festival featured vendors, music, dancers and games.

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PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Parents help their young daughter negotiate the balance beam at St. Matthew Church Sept. 17. The biannual Festival of Faith celebrates the founding of the church, as well as the church's growing multicultural community. This year, a eucharistic procession honored the Year of the Eucharist, which ends next month.

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'Triumph of the Cross'



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, talks to teenagers about sin during the fourth annual "Triumph of the Cross" conference at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Sept. 9-10.

Many gather for fourth annual conference at St. Barnabas Church

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — A Christian author, a college professor of literature, a Catholic high school teacher and several priests were among the workshop leaders discussing faith, prayer and Catholicism at a recent conference in Arden.

Nearly 150 people, including many teenagers, attended the fourth annual "Triumph of the Cross: Building Catholic Families, Building a Catholic Culture" conference held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Sept. 9-10.

"The triumph of his cross is the giving of grace," said Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church, during his homily at Mass.

Regina Doman, author of several books for teens, gave the keynote speech on "The Genius of Catholic Womanhood" as well as a workshop on writing Catholic fiction.

"As Catholic writers, we need to at least acknowledge that evil is out there," she said. "It is difficult to do it in a way that you are not exposing people to sin."

"Why We Have Sin: A Talk for Young People" was the workshop topic of Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

"We have sin because we do it," said Father Kauth. "Evil is the absence of a good that should be present. Adam and Eve knew what was good but didn't know the absence of God."

God offers himself to us but he won't force himself on us, said Father Kauth.

"God gives us just enough grace to make us want him," said Father Kauth. "On your part, you have to want more."

Lack of integrity is one of the main "Pitfalls for Catholic Teens," according to Jennifer Gordon, a teacher at Knoxville Catholic High School in Knoxville, Tenn.

"Because you're Catholic, you belong entirely to Christ," she told her teen audience. "Is there a piece of you that you're holding back? ... You have to strive for a real world the way God meant for things to be."

Growth as a Christian is all about time, and devoting more time to prayer is essential, said Scott Richert, executive editor of "Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture," during his workshop, "Pray Without Ceasing: Reintegrating the Home and the Parish."

Richert encouraged participants to learn short prayers by rote and to expand the time they already devote to prayer.

"Prayer will resurface when we need it," he said.

Other workshop topics included moral living, celebrity conversions and Islam in America.

The conference also featured a concert of sacred choral music by a choir comprised of parishioners from St. Barnabas Church and St. Eugene Church, St. Joan of Arc Church and the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

The music also will be performed at the diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 23.

A gathering of catechists



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Participants gather for "Lighting the Fires of Faith XI" at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville Sept. 10. More than 200 people attended the annual enrichment and education event, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation. The bilingual event was a part of the ongoing training for catechists, youth ministers, RCIA teams and adult education leaders.

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Diocese of Charlotte

THREE DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Thursday, Oct. 13th - St. Mark, Huntersville - 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter: Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, Pastor, St. Pius X Church

Mass Celebrant: Bishop Peter Jugis

**Deadline to register: Oct. 6th

Thursday, Oct. 20th - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory - 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Ed Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church

**Deadline to register: Oct. 11

Thursday, Oct. 27th - St. Eugene, Asheville - 10 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter & Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, Chaplin, Belmont Abbey

**Deadline to register: Thurs., Oct. 20th

Cost: \$10 - includes coffee and pastries, and full lunch

Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry,

1123 S. Church St.,
Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

For more information call: Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

Adoration of the Eucharist is offered at the following churches:

Andrews	Holy Redeemer Church	Fridays, 9-10 a.m., with confessions ending with Benediction
Arden	St. Barnabas Church	Sundays, 1-10 p.m.; weekdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Asheboro	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m.
Asheville	Basilica of St. Lawrence	daily, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Belmont Abbey	Mary, Help of Christians Church	daily, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
Boone	St. Elizabeth Church	first Fridays 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Mass
Bryson City	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 5:15 p.m. Mass (unless otherwise posted) until 6:30 p.m.
Burnsville	Sacred Heart Church	Wednesdays, 10:30-11:45 a.m., followed by Mass at 12 p.m.
Charlotte	Our Lady of the Assumption Church	first Fridays, following 7 p.m. Mass for one hour
	St. Gabriel Church	perpetual adoration
	St. Matthew Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 9 a.m. Saturday, in chapel
	St. Peter Church	first Fridays following the 12:10 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 1:30 p.m.
	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Fridays following 12:15 p.m. Mass until 8:30 p.m.
	St. Vincent de Paul Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 10:30 a.m.
Clemmons	Holy Family Church	Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. except holidays
Concord	St. James the Greater Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Mass at 11 a.m.
Denver	Holy Spirit Church	first Fridays, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday
Forest City	Immaculate Conception Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Fridays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8-9 a.m.
Franklin	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays 9 a.m. until 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Gastonia	St. Michael Church	eve of first Friday, 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Friday
Greensboro	St. Benedict Church	first Fridays, 12:15-8 p.m.
	St. Paul the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Hendersonville	Immaculate Conception Church	first Fridays, 9-11:30 a.m.
Hickory	St. Aloysius Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
High Point	Christ the King Church	first Fridays: call church for time
	Maryfield Chapel	perpetual adoration
Huntersville	St. Mark Church	Fridays, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Jefferson	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Kannapolis	St. Joseph Church	Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m.
Kemersville	Holy Cross Church	Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
King	Good Shepherd Church	Fridays, 6-7 p.m.
Lenoir	St. Francis of Assisi Church	Saturdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m.
Lexington	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Fridays following morning Mass until 5 p.m.; Benediction following 11 a.m. Mass
		Sundays
Lincolnton	St. Dorothy Church	Fridays, 6-7 p.m.
Linville	St. Bernadette Church	Fridays following 11 a.m. Mass
Marion	Our Lady of the Angels Church	first Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m. followed by Benediction and Mass. For Spanish-speaking parishioners, 6-8 p.m.
Mocksville	St. Francis of Assisi Church	first Fridays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.; children's adoration last Fridays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Monroe	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Sunday
Mooresville	St. Therese Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 4:45 p.m.
Morganton	St. Charles Borromeo	Fridays following 6 p.m. Mass until 7 p.m.
Mt. Airy	Holy Angels Church	Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
Newton	St. Joseph Church	first Fridays following 12:10 p.m. Mass until 6 p.m.
Salisbury	Sacred Heart Church	Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.; Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Spruce Pine	St. Lucien Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Statesville	St. Philip the Apostle Church	first Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Swannanoa	St. Margaret Mary Church	first Fridays following 12 p.m. Mass until 5 p.m.
Sylva	St. Mary Church	first Saturday following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m.
Thomasville	Our Lady of the Highways Church	first Fridays, 12-7 p.m.
Tryon	St. John the Baptist Church	Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; first Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Waynesville	St. John the Evangelist Church	first Fridays following 9 a.m. Mass until 4:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem	St. Leo the Great Church	first Fridays following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m., except during summer months

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Ite, Missa Est

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Part 26

In our discussion of the Communion Rite last time, we concluded by mentioning that the “Prayer After Communion” completes the Communion Rite. Following the Communion Rite is a decidedly short and simple conclusion to the Mass called the “Concluding Rite,” consisting of relatively few parts.

Let us now examine how the Mass is ended by investigating these parts.

The ritual of the Mass allows a time and a place for announcements that are to be given after the "Prayer After Communion." There are two specifications for these announcements: they are to be brief and necessary.

The priest then greets the faithful in the usual manner, "The Lord be with you," with the usual response by the faithful. The celebrant then blesses the faithful with the customary sign of the cross and invocation of the Holy Trinity. He concludes the Mass in the same manner in which it was initiated; the prayer of the Mass, the highest form of prayer known to mankind, is now completed with the Trinitarian blessing.

On solemn feasts and special occasions, there may be a more elaborate prayer over the people, which is usually begun with the instruction, "Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing."

One final exchange remains between the deacon — or, if there is no deacon, the celebrant — and the faithful, known as the “dismissal.” The deacon (or priest) says, “Ite, missa est [Go, it is the dismissal]” in the Latin version, which is rendered as three options in the current English edition: “Go in the peace of Christ”; “The Mass is ended, go in peace”; or “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

The faithful respond one last time, “Deo gratias” [“Thanks be to God”]. The dismissal, although very subtle and concise, holds great theological importance. It is the dismissal that gives the Mass its name: “the Mass” comes from the Latin *Missa*, meaning “sent” or “dismissed.”

The faithful go to Mass, not merely as an escape from the world or as a diversion from one's Christian responsibilities, but rather that they might be sent back into the world, fortified by the grace of God. Having rendered to God the worship of the Mass and having received the fruits of redemption, the faithful can better accomplish the duties of their particular vocation in the midst of the world — to sanctify the home, the workplace, the school, the marketplace, etc.

But before the celebrant and the faithful depart, the celebrant and deacon

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW
BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



reverence the altar once again with a kiss and either bow to the altar or, if the tabernacle is in the sanctuary, they genuflect to the reserved Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

There may be a recessional hymn that accompanies the movement of the ministers from the sanctuary, but this is not necessary since the Mass is already ended.

Now what?
Immediately upon the completion of Mass, it has been recommended by the Catholic Church for centuries to remain for a time of personal thanksgiving. We are encouraged to remain quiet, kneel down and thank God for the outpouring of grace and mercy received in holy Communion.

St. José Maria Escrivá advises us, “Do not leave the church almost immediately after receiving the sacrament. Surely you have nothing so important to attend to that you cannot give our Lord 10 minutes to say thanks Love is paid for with love.”

Perhaps you saw the film "The Passion of the Christ" in the theatre. What was the response of the audience to the events of the Lord's passion, crucifixion and death? Each of the four times I saw the film in the theatre elicited the same response from the audience: silence, stillness.

The Mass is the same powerful, dramatic, bloody sacrifice re-presented in an unbloody manner. If we had the grace to better understand the mystery of the Mass, I dare suggest that we would also discover the same reaction in our souls: silence, adoration and thanksgiving.

Next time we will finish our series “Understanding the Mystery of the Mass” with a short review and a few concluding remarks.

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

DIocese of Charlotte Prison Ministry Appreciation Day

Sat. October 1, 2005 10 am - 2 pm
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory NC

A day of sharing and appreciation for those in prison ministry and those interested in ministry to our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Free luncheon served so please reserve your space soon:
bwwenning@charlottediocese.org or (704) 370-3344



TOP HONORS

Boy Scout earns Eagle rank in Stanley

STANLEY — Boy Scout Troop 49 awarded Christopher Stephen Lisi with the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts, Aug. 28.

Christopher is a parishioner of Holy Spirit Church in Denver, where he serves as an usher, altar server, Vacation Bible School volunteer and is a member of the parish youth group. He is an honor student at Highland School of Technology in Gastonia.

To receive the Eagle Scout rank,

Christopher completed an individual service project — he painted the interior rooms of the youth building at First United Methodist Church in Stanley, which is the host church for Troop 49. The project helped beautify the building.

In Troop 49, Christopher has held the offices of quartermaster, historian, patrol leader, troop guide, instructor and is currently senior patrol leader. He also has earned the Arrow of Light award and two outstanding achievement awards.



COURTESY PHOTO

Christopher Lisi (left) of Boy Scout Troop 49 in Stanley recently earned his Eagle Scout rank. Also pictured are Adam Cloninger, another Eagle Scout, and Steve Lisi, Chris' father and Scoutmaster.

Catholic Daughters welcome new members



COURTESY PHOTO

Six new members are received into Catholic Daughters of the Americas' Court St. Mary, Mother of God in Sylva during a ceremony at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City Aug. 11.

Court celebrates successful first year of serving church, community

SYLVA — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas continues to grow in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Court St. Mary, Mother of God 2534 recently welcomed 13 new members during two ceremonies in June and August.

Seven members were received into the court (chapter) at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva June 26, and six more women joined at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City Aug. 11.

Founded on June 27, 2004, with 31 women from four parishes — St. Mary, Mother of God Church; St. Joseph Church; St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin; and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee — the court quickly added six more women in July ceremonies.

Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church, became the court's first chaplain.

The new court became one of 14 courts in North Carolina. To date, the courts have a total of almost 750 members.

During its first year, members of Court St. Mary, Mother of God served lunches to Habitat for Humanity volunteers, organized a 24-hour eucharistic adoration during Lent and held fundraisers and meetings with keynote speakers discussing topics including the pro-life movement, the role of the laity after Vatican II, Hispanic immigrants and living out the Beatitudes.

The court has plans to take on projects relating to the Catholic Daughters' national Circle of Love program,

which is geared to assisting Catholic Daughters in working with the Catholic Church and community.

From its inception in 1903, Catholic Daughters of the Americas has grown and developed into the largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas.

Headquartered in New York with 100,000 members in the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic and Mexico, Catholic Daughters of the Americas' purpose is to help the church in its religious, charitable and educational works.

The organization, open to Catholic lay and religious women 18 years of age or older, supports Covenant House, which provides shelter and services to homeless and runaway youths; Support Our Aging Religious, a national agency that helps religious orders meet retirement needs; Holy Cross Family Ministries; the U.S. bishops' Apostleship of the Seas; Teachers of Exceptional Children in conjunction with the National Catholic Educational Association; Morality in Media; Catholic Relief Services; and Habitat for Humanity.

It also provides scholarships and support for seminarians.

The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the national program for girls ages 6-18, was founded in 1925.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Daughters of the Americas, visit www.catholicdaughters.org.

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

Life Chains to be held on Respect Life Sunday

LIFE, from page 1

will hold pro-life placards with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

"Life Chain allows us to give a voice to our message that life is sacred," said Maggi Nadol, director of diocesan Respect Life Ministry. "It is often difficult for the pro-life side to visibly express our deeply held belief that God is the author of life."

"The Respect Life program is the primary educational vehicle for the (bishops') Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities," said Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Msgr. Fay said the U.S. bishops inaugurated the Respect Life program with a resolution they adopted in the spring of 1972. The first of what the resolution called a "week of prayer and study dedicated to the sanctity of human life and the many threats to human life in our world" was held that October.

"Begun as a 'week of prayer and study' focusing on contemporary threats to human life, the program expanded to a month of prayer and study, and expanded quickly again to a year-round program that begins anew each year on the first

Sunday of October," Msgr. Fay said.

Pro-life packets

A packet of materials for the 2005-06 Respect Life Program of the U.S. bishops has been made available to dioceses and parishes.

Its theme, "Help build a world where human life is always loved and defended, every form of violence banished," is derived from Pope John Paul II's prayer to Mary on Dec. 8, 2004, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Inside the packet is a series of six papers: "Justice, Mercy and Capital Punishment"; "Pope John Paul II: Dying With Dignity"; "The Gospel of Life and Its Great Exemplar"; "Roe vs. Reason"; "Contraception and Abortion: The Underlying Link"; and "Genetic Enhancement: Custom Kids and Chimeras."

Article authors include Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver; Capuchin Father J. Daniel Mindling, academic dean at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.; attorney Helen Alvare, an associate professor of law at Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America in Washington; and Marilyn Coors, an assistant professor of psychiatry and assistant professor of bioethics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The packet contains a liturgy guide



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A woman holds a pro-life placard during a Life Chain on University City Boulevard in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 3, 2004. The Life Chain was one of at least two dozen taking place around the Diocese of Charlotte last year. Life Chains will be held this year on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 2.

with resources for Respect Life Sunday; a liturgy for Jan. 23, 2006, the day after the anniversary date of the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made virtually all abortions legal nationwide; and a suggested novena and Holy Hour.

"We hope that these materials will also be useful in your efforts to foster greater respect for life," said Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman

of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a letter accompanying the packet.

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

Editor's Note: Packets cost \$5 each plus shipping and handling. Orders may be placed by calling: (866) 582-0943, or by sending a fax to: (301) 779-8596.

African-American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte

Calendar of Events

Please "save the date" for the events listed below.

Beginning Fourth Quarter, 2005

"Project Africa"

Develop partner relationships with African dioceses, parishes, Church organizations and/or villages and towns - more details to follow.

"Health Awareness Newsletter"

A monthly publication covering nutrition, health awareness and information on the various illnesses that largely affect the African and African-American communities.

Sunday, November 13, 2005 - Blood and Bone Marrow Drive

Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church
2301 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte, NC
9 am - 2 pm

Saturday, January 21, 2006 - Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration:

"One World - Many People"

8 am - 6 pm - details to follow

Thursday, May 5 - Saturday, May 7, 2006 - Adult Spiritual Retreat

Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, NC
Details to follow

Thursday, June 16 - Saturday, June 18, 2006 - KUGENGA

Catholic Youth Leadership Weekend
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC
Details to follow



For information, contact the Diocese of Charlotte
Office of African-American Affairs Ministry at 704-370-3267.

WANT TO GO?

Life Chains are being held Sunday, Oct. 2. Participants should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled start time. Life Chains include:

CHARLOTTE

St. Patrick Cathedral, St. Vincent de Paul Church and others at Charlotte Pregnancy Care Center, 1311 E. Morehead: 2-3 p.m.

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr.: 1-2 p.m.

St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd.: 2-3 p.m.

St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.: 2-3 p.m.

St. John Neumann, 8451 Idlewild Rd.: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway: 2-3 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church at UNC-Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd.: 1-2 p.m.

HENDERSONVILLE

Along Greenville Highway from Stoney Mountain Road to railroad tracks: 2:30-3:30 p.m.

HUNTERSVILLE

St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. (joined by St. Therese Church, Mooresville): 2-3 p.m.

MONROE

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St.: 3-4 p.m.

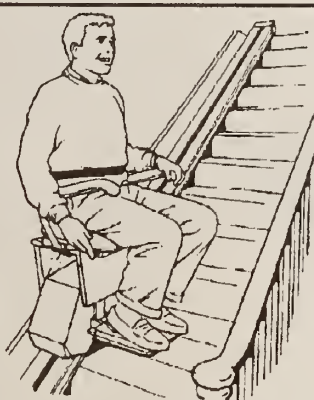
SALISBURY

Sacred Heart Church at square at Main Street and Innes Street: 1-2 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM

Hanes Mall Boulevard, west of Stratford Road: 2:30-3:30 p.m.

For possible Life Chain events in your area, please contact your parish or, for other Charlotte-area Life Chains, call Seth Dobson at (704) 293-7741.



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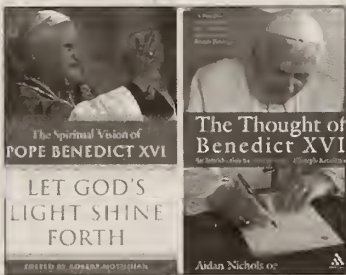
Books explore theological vision of the new pope

REVIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Let God's Light Shine Forth: The Spiritual Vision of Pope Benedict XVI" is a lovely book that serves two purposes.

It is a fine introduction to the pope's personal and professional life. And the selection of beautifully written (yet relatively short) excerpts from his writings can be fruitfully used for personal meditation and reflection.

Robert Moynihan, founder and editor of the monthly magazine *Inside the Vatican*, has compiled illustrative quotes that reveal the clarity of the pope's thinking and let us glimpse the solidity of his luminous faith.



The selections are grouped into three themes — his faith, today's world and the Christian pilgrim — which, taken together, are a lucid expression of the pope's urgency for "a new curiosity about Christianity, a desire to understand what it really is."

He says, "The essential is not that Christ announced certain ideas — something that he in fact did, of course — but that I become a Christian in the measure to which I believe in this event: God entered the world and acted."

A 75-page essay on "The Man and His Life" draws on the more than 20 interviews that Moynihan conducted with then-Cardinal Ratzinger when he was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "where he labored to protect the wonder and beauty of God from being encrusted and hidden under theologies of relativism, atheist Marxism and secularism."

There are, of course, different ways of understanding the controversies of those years, which is why so much of the literature about Cardinal Ratzinger is ideological in tone. Of those many ways of looking at those times, this book gives preference to the new pope's self-understanding; the result is a vivid spiritual portrait of "a simple, humble worker in God's vineyard," a pastor who grieves for a world marked by the absence of God.

"The Thought of Benedict XVI: An Introduction to the Theology of Joseph Ratzinger" is a reprint of a 1988 book that examined Cardinal Ratzinger's personal theological writings, as opposed to those

decisions rendered through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The book opens with an overview of the history and characteristics of Bavarian Catholicism, important because of its decisive formative effect on the future Pope Benedict. In discrete chapters, Dominican Father Aidan Nichols explains the context and content of Cardinal Ratzinger's theological ideas, from the earliest academic work on ecclesiology (a study of the nature of church in St. Augustine) to his writings on the Second Vatican Council, the creed, eschatology, liturgy and ecumenism.

It is understandable that publishers would respond to the interest in Pope Benedict XVI by reprinting older books. It is also evident that part of this interest is, appropriately, in Joseph Ratzinger the theologian because it was in his role as a theological adviser at the Second Vatican Council that he first came to public prominence.

Moreover, his understanding of the vocation of the theologian influenced his actions at the congregation and will no doubt shape his papacy.

All of this would bode well for a book like this. Unfortunately, "The Thought of Benedict XVI" is not helpful for the general reader. The text assumes a working knowledge of theology and church history, and the author, a professor of dogmatic and ecumenical theology, assumes a high level of conceptual sophistication.

Had he stopped now and then to take a metaphoric breath, a nonprofessional reader could have been included more fully in the conversation.

Still, the book is worth the effort because it affords an understanding of the new pope's intellectual influences. Father Nichols' chapter on the pope's liturgical theology is a reminder that doctrine is not an end in itself but a vehicle that brings us to the doorway of worship and adoration.

Linner, a librarian and writer, earned a master of theological studies degree from Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass.

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WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 2, 2005

Oct. 2, Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalms 80:9, 12; 13-14, 15-16, 19-20
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9
- 3) Matthew 21:33-43

Prayerful persistence leads to peace

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

About a year ago our family was faced with a move across several states — a daunting task, given that we never had moved farther than across town.

We had several months to consolidate our belongings, pack them up and get them loaded onto a moving van, and I planned everything carefully so that the van would arrive at our Ohio home the same time we did. I even lined up volunteers to begin unloading boxes as soon as we parked in the driveway.

Once in Ohio, I welcomed the volunteer workers and awaited the arrival of the moving van. After an hour of waiting on the curb, I called the moving company, only to learn that the van had broken down en route and would not be repaired for several days.

All my meticulous planning came to

naught as our family spent three days in a local hotel without any furnishings or supplies.

I was reminded, like Isaiah's vine grower or the landowner in Matthew's Gospel, that there are times when no amount of careful, controlled endeavor can guarantee the desired outcome. The unexpected, unpleasant event can and will happen, and when it happens despite one's best efforts, it is easy to feel persecuted or even tempted to give up entirely.

Worry and anxiety didn't make the moving van arrive any sooner. Persistent hope, rather, kept us steadfast and peaceful until our belongings were recovered and we were able to move in.

In today's readings, God resolves to "give up" on Israel — the vineyard he planted — because it has not responded to his covenant as hoped. Nevertheless, a way is found, and the vineyard is spared: The rejected stone becomes the cornerstone, and the land bears fruit because of God's own persistence.

Paul speaks of this same kind of persistence when he encourages the Philippians: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you."

When our foolproof plans and best efforts fail, God's remedy of prayerful persistence leads us from discouragement and despair to the "peace that passes all understanding."

Questions:

When have you experienced the defeat of your own careful plans, and how did you respond? In what situation in your life do you currently need the graces of persistence and peace?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

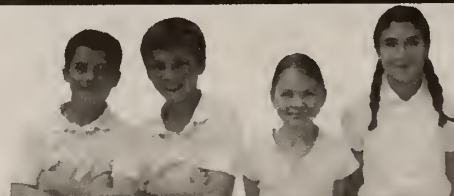
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1

Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32; Monday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian), Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; Tuesday (St. Vincent de Paul), Zechariah 8:20-23, Luke 9:51-56; Wednesday (St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, St. Wenceslaus), Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; Thursday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael), Revelation 12:7-12, John 1:47-51; Friday (St. Jerome), Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; Saturday (St. Therese of the Child Jesus), Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 8

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43; Monday, Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11, Jonah 2:2-5, 8, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (St. Francis of Assisi), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; Friday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28.

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CNS PHOTO FROM FIVE MILE RIVER FILMS LTD.

Jasper Harris portrays a young Karol Wojtyla in the TV movie "Have No Fear: The Life of Pope John Paul II," to be broadcast on ABC.

Director says TV movie hopes to capture essence of Pope John Paul II

BY RUTA TUMENAITE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VILNIUS, Lithuania — In the lobby of the Lithuanian Film Studio stood a group of fully dressed cardinals, some of them complaining in Russian about the prolonged wait.

In another area, Mehmet Ali Agca — not the real one — sat in a mock prison cell, where he was about to be filmed meeting with the pope he tried to assassinate.

Such scenes could be encountered all around Vilnius for almost a month until Sept. 13, when Five Mile River Films Ltd. finished shooting major scenes of the new TV movie, "Have No Fear: The Life of Pope John Paul II," for broadcast on ABC.

The filming was to be completed in Rome, and a 90-minute-long movie was scheduled to reach the international market by mid-November.

"Having only 90 minutes to tell the story of such a huge character in history, we had to take a point of view, which is pope as a human being," said executive producer Lorenzo Minoli.

"What struck me was how this man has been always very coherent to his ideas and beliefs," he said. "This is the most important thing with the title that I wanted, that was his teaching: Have no fear of belief, have no fear of God, have no fear of — period. And have no fear of death."

Minoli, who produced the "Jesus" miniseries, said the idea of "Have No Fear" was conceived in April, when the world was witnessing the incredible outpouring of homage to Pope John Paul as he was dying.

"I arrived in Rome half an hour before the bells started to ring, announcing the pope's death. The day after he died, I walked at midnight in St. Peter's Square and was shocked to see so many young people of different roots — you could see punks and very well-dressed-up kids — all together, all there," said Minoli.

"He touched the hearts of people who had almost nothing to do with belief because of his presence, and I would say because of the way he died," said Minoli. "He died with dignity; he gave to the sick and dying people and elderly the dignity of being sick and of being old. And I think this is very much in the spirit of what our faith is about."

Minoli, an Italian who was raised a Catholic and went to Catholic schools, said for the role of Pope John Paul he chose a non-Catholic, German-born actor Thomas Kretschmann, who has had roles in such movies as "The Pianist."

"I wanted a very good actor who could play the part from the young pope till the old pope. The fact that he doesn't have a Catholic tradition is even better, because he has to learn and find a common denominator, which then becomes really the essence of the message — Thomas is doing it fantastically," he said.

Minoli said Kretschmann hired a dialect coach in order to sound Polish.

"I was telling him: You are a German, you have an accent as thick as I have, so nobody really cares whether your accent is really Polish or German, but no, he wanted to be true to the part," Minoli said with a smile.

He said Lithuania "was very similar to Poland, architecturally speaking." But he also said he found the country was "a very special place — there is a very strong sense of spirituality floating in the air. People like to have fun, but there is a very clear boundary, and it's really unique."

Minoli said it had been challenging to capture the essence of the pope so close to his death. But he said he and fellow producer Judd Parkin hired Jesuit Father James Martin, associate editor of America magazine, as a consultant.

"I'm crazy," Minoli said, laughing, but added that the movie was "a point of view of somebody who has been touched deeply by him and wants to make a homage to him in my own way."

Visit to the Vatican



COURTESY PHOTO

Students, parents and chaperones from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville stand outside the Vatican during their 12-day summer trip to Italy.

During the trip, organized by history department chair Michael Streich, the students experienced a high level of commentary and experience while touring the Vatican and the Colosseum in Rome, learning about St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, viewing artwork by Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci in Florence and visiting Venice and the island of Capri.

Another school trip to Europe took place in July. The high school's summer foreign trips focus on both educational value and fun, and provide out-of-classroom experiences for the students.

Student leaders



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem pledge their support, as leaders of the student body, to Sandra McMonagle, principal; Sister Geri Rogers, assistant principal; and Lisa Kelsey, eighth-grade teacher, during Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church Sept. 2. The pledged support includes being exemplary role models to younger students (especially their kindergarten buddies) and practicing a strong work ethic. Conventual Franciscan Father Bill Robinson, pastor, conducted the commissioning and celebrated the Mass.



COURTESY PHOTO

Young scholar

Felipe Villalon, past grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 10504, presents the 2005-06 Canice Conners Scholarship to Conner Brannan, an eighth-grader at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem. The \$500 scholarship is sponsored by Council 10504 and given yearly to a Catholic school student actively involved in his or her school and parish.

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Then-cardinal Joseph Ratzinger uses incense to bless the casket of Pope John Paul II during his funeral Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 8. Cardinal Ratzinger was elected pope April 19. A detailed chronology of Pope John Paul's final hours was released by the Vatican Sept. 19.

Pope John Paul II's final hours revealed by Vatican

POPE, from page 1

his funeral and his final testament.

The volume also contained more than 150 pages of condolence messages and testimonials that arrived from political and religious leaders around the world.

Final hours

In recounting the pope's final days and hours, the chronology described the pontiff's poignant appearance on Easter, March 27, when he was recovering from a tracheotomy to relieve breathing problems.

"The pope tried to read the words of the apostolic blessing without success and, in silence, with the right hand he blessed the city and the world," it said.

At his last public appearance at his apartment window March 30, he gave a blessing but was unable to speak to a

"stunned and sorrowful" crowd in St. Peter's Square, it said.

"This was the last public 'station' of his painful Via Crucis," it said.

The next day, March 31, the pope had a crisis: He was stricken by a "violent shaking chill" as he was being taken to Mass at 11 a.m., the chronology said. His temperature quickly rose to more than 103 degrees, and he went into septic shock with cardiocirculatory collapse, caused by a urinary infection.

The Vatican promptly took steps to arrange "all the necessary therapeutic steps and cardiorespiratory assistance," it said. The chronology said church officials respected the pope's "explicit desire" to remain in his residence and not be taken to the hospital, underlining that sufficient medical facilities had been set up in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace.

When Mass was celebrated at the pope's bedside that evening, the pontiff followed it with half-closed eyes. He

was able to weakly raise his right arm twice, when the bread and wine were consecrated.

After receiving the anointing of the sick that evening from Latin-rite Cardinal Marian Jaworski of Lviv, Ukraine, a longtime friend of the pontiff, the pope received Communion and asked to celebrate a "eucharistic hour" of meditation and prayer.

At 6 a.m. April 1 the pope, "conscious and serene," celebrated Mass, the account said. At 7:15 he listened to the recitation of the Way of the Cross and made the sign of the cross at each station.

As the prayers continued throughout the day, the pope's medical situation worsened, with gradual circulatory, respiratory and kidney failure, it said.

"The patient, with visible participation, shared in the continual prayers of those who were assisting him," it said.

'Sleep in the Lord'

On April 2, by the time of the morning Mass, the pope had begun to lose consciousness. In the late morning, after receiving for the last time the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the pope's temperature rose rapidly.

"Toward 3:30 p.m., with a very weak voice and mumbled words, in the Polish language, the Holy Father asked: 'Let me go to the house of the Father,'" it said.

Sister Tobiana Sobodka, a member of the Handmaidens of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who headed the team of Polish nuns in the papal household, heard the pope say the phrase, according to the pope's personal physician, Dr. Renato Buzzonetti, who was quoted in the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The Vatican's chronology said the pope went into a coma that evening at 7 p.m. Medical monitoring equipment tracked the steady loss of vital functions.

"Following a Polish tradition, a small lit candle illuminated the semidarkness of

the room, where the pope was passing away," it said.

At 8 p.m. a Mass marking the feast of Divine Mercy was celebrated at the pope's bedside, the chronology said. The feast, instituted by Pope John Paul, is celebrated the Sunday after Easter.

Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope's longtime Polish secretary, celebrated the Mass.

"Polish religious songs accompanied the Mass and blended with those of the young people and the multitude of faithful, who were gathered in prayer in St. Peter's Square," the chronology said.

"At 9:37 p.m., John Paul II went to sleep in the Lord," it said.

The account confirmed that an electrocardiogram was administered for more than 20 minutes before the declaration of death, to verify the cessation of heart activity.

Final good-byes

The supplement's brief introduction in Latin made a point of underlining the fact that a great multitude, especially young people, made their way to St. Peter's Square as the pope lay dying, "as if to sit with him" and show their affection.

The condolences and testimonials published in the volume were written messages received by the College of Cardinals, the Vatican Secretariat of State or the papal chamberlain. There were messages from representatives of 162 countries, including many world leaders. Others expressing admiration for the late pope included Cuba's Fidel Castro, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

No message from the U.S. government appeared in the book.

In a televised message April 2, U.S. President George W. Bush said of the pope's death: "The Catholic Church has lost its shepherd, the world has lost a champion of human freedom, and a good and faithful servant of God has been called home."

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The blessings of Katrina

Tragedy can be a wake-up call for us all

We don't like 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina and we never will; however, both tragedies have blessings, death, success and defeat. I wish to focus on the blessings.

When the infamous 9/11 came, the people immediately said: "We have been hit!" I didn't have a chance to witness that horror, except through the TV, because that morning I was flying comfortably from Newark, N.J., to Greenville, S.C., and while I was enjoying the flight unaware of the tragedy taking place, New York, Washington and Pennsylvania were experiencing death and horror.

When Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, people were saying: "New Orleans is gone!" In both tragedies, we experienced some extraordinary sense of community, we all felt close to one another and we did the impossible to help the victims, without knowing their names or background or race or religion.

Why is that? Do we have to go through tragedies to experience loving care? Can we care for and love one another every day without tragedies?

I consider those tragic events as breakthroughs of nature and history. The breakthroughs continue or pop up throughout our lives — the point is how to make the breakthrough a failure or a success, a learning experience or a nightmare.

The word "breakthrough" is actually a compound of "break" and "through." As far as I know, the two words were first hyphenated and were first used to describe a military advance of decisive importance.

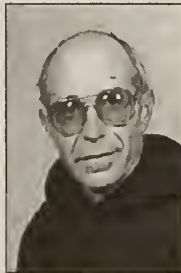
The Bible is filled with breakthroughs. The Book of Exodus tells us how God broke through a man, Moses, who, in a fit of temper, had killed one of his own. The story ends with God speaking to Moses from the bush: "I have seen the affliction of my people, I have heard their cry, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them; and you are the one who will do it."

Perhaps, as you read this, you may be the one God has sent to be the good news for those who may not see the good news in the aftermath of 9/11 and Katrina. In all the stories recorded in the Old and New Testaments, describing natural and human calamities, there is something indescribable; there is always darkness and light. There is always a voice, coming as it were from the other side, yet somehow from the inside.

I met a loving couple on Sept. 11, 2005. They were coming to worship and to commemorate the fourth anniversary of 9/11. I welcomed them and I saw a beautiful smile and some suffering on their faces. They told me that they were

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap
GUEST COLUMNIST



coming from New Orleans.

"Our house and personal belongings are gone," they said. "However, the good news is that we were able to be saved, we still have the best that any human being can have ... we have our precious lives, we have God, and we have one another."

This is how a breakthrough becomes a redeeming moment rather than a despairing curse. The blessings of Katrina are defined by love.

A definition of love that won a nationwide newspaper contest read: "Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service and from solitude to kinship with all humankind."

The horror and pain of 9/11 and Katrina will not fade away quickly, but the wake-up call had an immediate and dramatic effect on all of us. The reality is that we cannot control all the events, but we can and we should prioritize God in our lives.

Did you know that in a 90-year span, the average person spends 22 years working, 21 years sleeping, nine years watching TV, seven years eating, seven years on the telephone, seven years playing, seven years dressing, three years traveling, three years on the computer, two years waiting for somebody, one year drinking, one year tying shoes and one year in church?

Church hardly made the list; we probably can do better. Here are some suggestions:

1. Start each day with a prayer and with this question: "What good can I do today?" Consider your spouse, your child, a co-worker, a subordinate, a boss, a relative and so on.

2. Look for ways to do that good thing. It can be simply offering to get a coworker a cup of coffee or complimenting a colleague for a job well done.

3. Do something nice for someone you dislike or for someone who dislikes you. This is difficult to do, but it definitely has a positive effect in your life.

4. Identify the so-called "nobodies" in your daily life and do something that will make them feel like "somebody." Example: An executive took the person who cleaned the floors in the building to lunch.

5. Go to church this Sunday to get the strength to do all of the above.

Dear Katrina, thank you for your blessings, but, please, do not come back.

Capuchin Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

When can you marry a relative?

Q. Please explain for our family which relatives are forbidden to marry and how this is figured. Two cousins on my father's side, I think they are called second cousins, want to be married. Is that possible? (Ohio)

A. Your question deals with the impediment to marriage that in church and civil law is called consanguinity — literally, common blood.

There are two kinds of consanguinity. One is the direct line, meaning the relationship between an individual and his or her parents or grandparents. This kind of relationship is a serious impediment to marriage. In the church as well as in most cultures, no permission (dispensation) for marriage between two such persons is possible.

The other type of consanguinity, which applies to your question, is indirect, or collateral. This is the relationship between brothers and sisters, first cousins and other relatives.

To be specific, in the collateral line there are as many degrees of relationship as there are persons in both lines together, not counting the common ancestor (Canon 108). Brother and sister are related to the second degree, niece and uncle to the third, first cousins to the fourth and so on.

This method of determining degrees of collateral relationship are generally employed also in civil law.

According to Catholic Church law a collateral relationship up to and including fourth degree is an impediment to marriage (Canon 1091).

Can people related in this way marry each other? It depends.

As with the direct line, no dispensation can be given by the church for a marriage

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



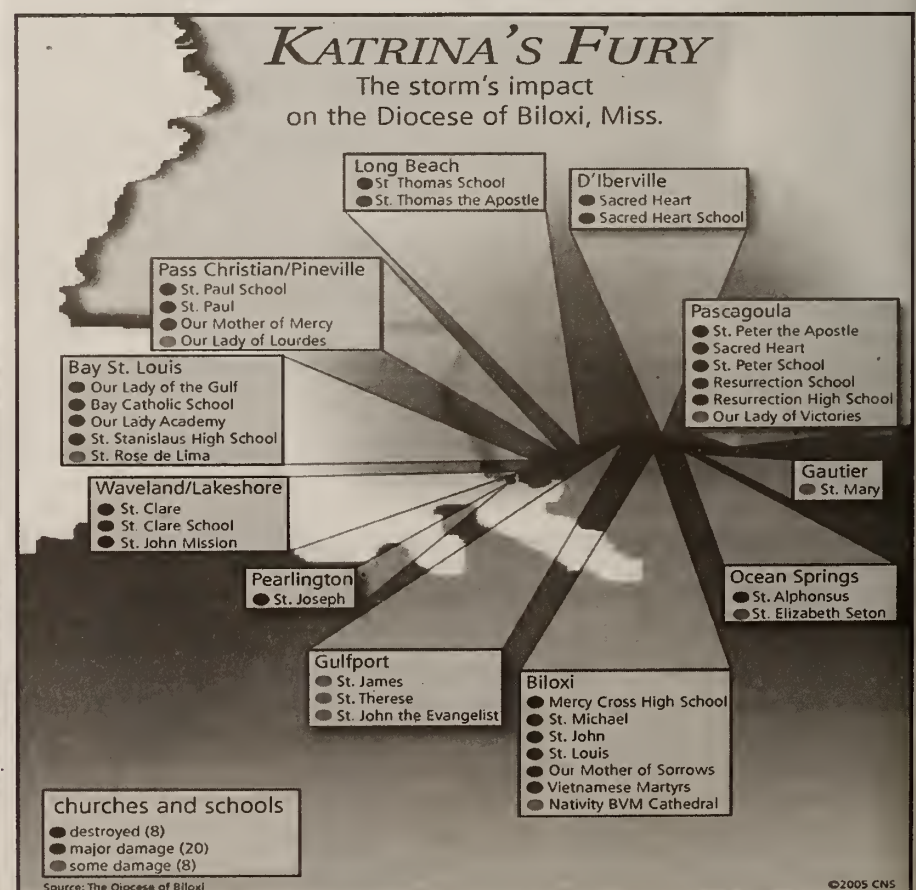
between brother and sister. In other cases, however, the church, through the bishop, can (and fairly often does) dispense for a serious enough reason.

Marriage between first cousins is more prevalent in some other parts of the world than it is in our own. In these cultures dispensations by the church for such marriages are not uncommon. In the United States most state laws prohibit first-cousin marriages.

Church and civil laws forbidding marriage within certain degrees of consanguinity are based on obvious social and health reasons. While a few ancient cultures apparently allowed some marriages between brothers and sisters, and even it seems between parent and child, marriage of individuals closely related were forbidden by every major code of law with which we are familiar, including those which predate Jewish law of the Old Testament.

From your description it sounds as if the relationship you ask about would not be within the degree forbidden by church law. But you, or they, need to talk with a parish priest or other counselor to be sure where they stand.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.



The blame game

Best resolution is to take responsibility

We've all been watching the "blame game" these past few weeks. A large-scale "blame game" erupted in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. Directly after the storm, Louisiana officials blamed the federal government for not sending in relief fast enough; conversely, the federal government blamed Louisiana for not giving the green light to troops or relief, or declaring a state of emergency early enough. The rest of us, watching one of the biggest finger-pointing matches of the century, didn't know who was in the right. None of us is immune from becoming a contestant of this sort in daily life. Three days before a group presentation in one of my sophomore-year English classes, the four of us discovered that only one actually had done the work assigned. None of us culprits wanted to come clean and say that we'd been too busy with other things; all of us wanted to cover up our own blunders and lay the blame on somebody else. That blame turned into finger-pointing, which morphed into an all-out fight. It was then that we realized we were so far down the rabbit hole that it was al-

most impossible to see the truth of the matter. It was time to own up and say where we went wrong. It's easy to play the blame game. All you have to bring is an excuse and an outstretched finger. You can play it if you're guilty — or even if you're innocent. You can play as an uninvolved bystander armed with the barest of facts. And when people play a full-on, no-holds-barred version, the truth is shoved into obscurity in favor of something that's less than justice and more than unfair. I think the only way to win at the blame game is to break the rules completely and play the responsibility card. Responsibility, wrongly portrayed as toil and drudgery, is really one of the only things that differentiates leaders who can handle crazy situations successfully from individuals who can't rise above the blame game. It's understandable that taking responsibility for one's actions isn't everyone's favorite option. But the blame game isn't the "way out" that I used to think it was. It isn't concerned with fixing the problem; it sweeps issues under the rug and tries to

Coming of Age

KAREN DIETLEIN
CNS COLUMNIST



shove cleaning supplies into somebody else's hand — somebody who is often innocent of the whole thing. Nobody stood up in Louisiana during that first week and took responsibility for what went wrong. As a result, the losers were the residents of New Orleans. Things are getting better, but that's because people are starting to step up to the plate, admit where they went wrong and turn their eyes toward concrete solutions. Responsibility isn't glamorous or easy, but nobody is as qualified to fix mistakes as the person who made them. Taking charge of patching up the blunders we actually make always gets the boat back on course quicker than laying blame on someone else. People also look up to and admire people big enough to admit where they went wrong. As for my group, we finally decided to admit that we hadn't done the work. As a result, we were able to commit ourselves to hard work over the next few days and got an A on the project instead of the F we would have received if we'd just kept on playing the blame game.

Soccer players, big and small, get top billing at papal audience

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



VATICAN CITY — The leaders of Europe's professional soccer association and 500 pint-sized soccer players from Italy and 16 East European countries got top billing at Pope Benedict XVI's Sept. 21 general audience. The Union of European Football Associations was giving its support to a project of the Italian soccer federation and the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," the Vatican's charity coordinator, to provide balls, shirts, shoes and other soccer equipment to schools and orphanages in Eastern Europe. Pope Benedict told them, "Your presence gives me an opportunity to underline the importance of sport, a discipline that when practiced with respect for the rules becomes an educational tool and a vehicle of important human and spiritual values." The pope said he hoped the initiative for Eastern Europe would help people see that sports could contribute to building solidarity and respect among peoples.

At the end of the audience, three of the under-12 soccer players gave gifts to the pope: a bouquet of yellow and white flowers, an equipment bag and a soccer ball. Before and after the audience, several sections of St. Peter's Square were cleared for the children to play soccer. In his main audience talk, the pope offered his reflections on Psalm 132, particularly God's promise to King David that if his people kept God's covenant and decrees he would bless them, sustain them and send them a savior. What God has promised, the pope said, "is the result of God and human beings freely entering into a relationship with one another."

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Nuns gone fishing

Much-deserved break leads to day on water

It was something you don't see every day — eight nuns in full habits on three little boats, fishing. People in other boats went past and then circled around to get another look. The security guards at the nearby power plant, seeing people in flowing robes and fearing terrorism, came rushing down to the river bank with binoculars. They looked, then paused and looked again. One speedboat pulling several girls on an inner tube went past us and then circled around to pass again. A little girl called out "Hi sisters!" and raised her hands in a wave. She shot right off the back of the inner tube into the water. The nuns screeched with laughter. These nuns get only one day per year off. They are Missionaries of Charity, members of the religious order started by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The sisters work at various houses in Washington, including a homeless shelter, a home for single mothers and an after-school drop-in center in poorer neighborhoods of our nation's capital. One of the families in our parish adopted two children through their order and got to know the sisters. Although they all looked similar in their white saris with blue trimmed veils, they were a diverse group. They came from all over the world: Kenya, India, Venezuela, Argentina and the United

Parish Diary

FATHER
PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



States. They had been raised in various faiths. Some had been raised as Catholics, others as Hindus or Protestant Christians. One sister was raised as a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore and became a Catholic under the influence of the Josephite Fathers. She was probably the only African American in her neighborhood ever to enter the convent. Her mother never left her AME church, and Mother Teresa became her friend. Once a year these nuns get a day off. This year they decided to do what people in our part of the world love to do on days off: go fishing. They had a few conditions. They wanted live bait. They wanted to do the fishing themselves. My secretary organized the event. She got three men of our parish with boats to take them out. They are frequent

volunteers and fishing buddies. One of them got a huge bucket of squirmy land shrimp for bait. The bait worked. The sisters caught more than 200 fish, but we suggested they throw back the little ones. In the end, we kept 153 fish because that is the number the disciples caught when they followed the instructions of the Lord on where to fish after the resurrection. The sisters didn't just fish. They went riding up and down the river in the three boats. A couple of the power boats were pretty fast. The nuns seemed to like to push them up to full throttle, veils flapping in the wind. Back at the parish center the sisters proved adept at cleaning fish. They wasted nothing, even leaving the heads on, which in India they evidently like to eat. At the end of the day the sisters spent an hour in prayer in our parish chapel. I stayed with them for adoration and Benediction. Our chapel had a strange smell of fish the next day. It was only one day out on the water, but it seemed like a long vacation. It was the combination of natural beauty, human goodness and grace-filled laughter that made the day truly "re-creating." We can't wait for the nuns to have another day off next year. Like the disciples, we're going fishing.

St. Ann Church serves small, enthusiastic community

ST. ANN CHURCH
3635 Park Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28209
(704) 523-4641

Vicariate: Charlotte
Pastor: Father Conrad Hoover
Parochial Vicar: Father Joseph Dinh
Permanent Deacon: Deacon George Szalony
Number of households: 700



Father Conrad Hoover

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh established St. Ann Church in August 1955, installing then-Msgr. (later Bishop) Michael J. Begley as pastor. With nearly a half-dozen Catholic churches having been constructed in Charlotte, a Catholic presence already had taken root firmly in the Mecklenburg County seat.

With property purchased on the corner of Park Road and Hillside Avenue, Msgr. Begley and parishioners began tending to their new spiritual home. A house on the property became the rectory, and a duplex on parish grounds served as a catechetical center, with Sisters of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart offering faith formation classes.

In 1956, the duplex was converted into a convent for the sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pa., who had arrived to open a parochial school. After holding Mass in the nearby Park Road School auditorium for a year, Msgr. Begley began celebrating Mass in the school building when construction was completed in September 1956. The school opened its doors to 296 children in its first year.

As parish growth continued to coincide with the influx of Catholics to the Charlotte area, plans were developed to



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

For the past 50 years, St. Ann Church in south Charlotte has provided a spiritual home for a diverse array of Catholic families. The parish celebrated its golden anniversary Aug. 13-14, 2005.

build a new church. With the building project complete in 1960, St. Ann School gained space for three classrooms and a library. Later additions to the school further increased the number of classrooms.

In 1957, the future fourth bishop of Charlotte, Peter J. Jugis, was baptized by then-Msgr. Begley at St. Ann Church and later served as priest-in-residence during the summer of 1983.

In 1961, Bishop Waters directed Msgr. Begley to begin the mission of St. Vincent de Paul to serve the ever-increasing number of Catholics in south Charlotte. On July 9, 1965, Bishop Waters proclaimed St. Vincent de Paul Church a parish in its own right.

St. Ann Church continued to expand over the next few decades, both in membership and property. An adjacent lot was purchased during Msgr. Anthony Kovacic's pastorate, 1972-79, and renovation work in the church and school building took place while Msgr.

which serves both the parish and the school. A strong focus on outreach work highlighted pastoral life at St. Ann Church, with Msgr. Allen leading missionary projects for the needy of Kentucky and Jamaica.

In July 2000, Father Conrad Hoover assumed the pastorate of St. Ann Church. Under his direction, the interior of the church was remodeled and a capital campaign has begun for construction of a new church. The parish hopes to have the new church completed in time for Christmas 2007.

About 810 Charlotte Catholics became parishioners of St. Ann Church when the parish was founded in 1955. Five decades later, more than 700 families — under the spiritual direction of Father Hoover; Father Joseph Dinh, parochial vicar; Permanent Deacon George Szalony; and Sister of St. Joseph Judy Monahan, pastoral associate — continue to build up this thriving community.

Father Hoover said the mission of St. Ann Church is "to nurture and strengthen our own spirituality through the Scriptures and the Catholic tradition."

"We invite all to receive God's love in Christ as we journey to become Christ, giving ourselves in compassionate service to all people," he said.

St. Ann Church prides itself on the diversity of its membership. Two years ago, the only bilingual Spanish and English Mass was initiated at the church.

Last summer, St. Ann Church celebrated its golden anniversary with Masses, a dinner dance and breakfast Aug. 13-14, 2005.

"We are privileged to be part of a parish which has been at the center of the life of the Diocese of Charlotte since its beginning," said Father Hoover. "We are no longer among the largest, but we are filled with the spirit of compassion and hope."

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

Are you Catholic, but not active? Do you feel unwelcome, "on the edge," "in exile" in your own Church?

COME HOME! WE MISS YOU!

Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont will begin a ministry for our inactive Catholic brothers and sisters who wish to find a safe place to return.



CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME
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To find YOUR place in the Church again, or just to talk about your situation, contact Dennis Teall-Fleming at teallfleming@yahoo.com or 704-868-9392.

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Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte



Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile

*Our Lady of the Rosary
Church is home to thriving
Catholic community*

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 14 No 44

A procession of faith

*Thousands gather
for diocese's first
Eucharistic
Congress*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Construction workers atop a high rise paused and tipped their hardhats in respect.

People lining the streets knelt reverently in silence. Those who weren't Catholic watched with great interest.

It was the first time a eucharistic procession had made its way through the streets of uptown Charlotte.

Approximately 3,500 people from across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis as he carried a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament from St. Peter Church to the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 24.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II during a eucharistic procession in uptown Charlotte Sept. 24. The procession was part of the Diocese of Charlotte's first Eucharistic Congress, which took place at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 23-24.

See CONGRESS, page 7



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Scott Hahn, a theology and Scripture professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, speaks to thousands of people during the Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 24.

SPEAKERS OF THE WORD

*Messages of faith, inspiration
imparted at Eucharistic Congress*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — One speaker spun basketballs on his fingertips. Another punched through wood boards.

Despite the theatrics, the messages of the speakers were similar and quite clear — they challenged people to be better Catholics and to stand up for

their faith.

A dozen speakers offered inspiring talks throughout the day to the adults, teens and children gathered for the diocesan Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 23-24.

Speakers included actor

See SPEAKERS, page 8

Faith and protest

**MARCH SAID TO SIGNAL MORE
UNIFIED FAITH-BASED VOICE
IN OPPOSING WAR**

BY NANCY FRAZIER
O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — With all major faith groups represented, the Sept. 24 protest march in Washington against the war in Iraq marked a new step in the effort to bring a more unified religious voice to the anti-war movement, according to a representative of Pax Christi USA.

Michael Jones, director of communications for the Catholic peace movement based in Erie, Pa., said at least 500 Pax Christi members and thousands of other Catholics participated in the demonstration, which drew an estimated 100,000

See PROTEST, page 13

A STAR IS BORN?

**Charlotte
Catholic senior in
Will Ferrell film**

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When most people meet someone they admire — the pope, a politician or an entertainer — they ask for an autograph or pose for a photo. They don't insult them.

But that's exactly what Matt Day did to actor Will Ferrell. And he got paid to do it.

See ACTOR, page 12

Stronger marriages

*Teams of Our Lady provide
spiritual growth for couples*

| PAGE 5

In Our Schools

*St. Pius X advisory board recognized;
St. Leo the Great wins Blue Ribbon*

| PAGE 6

Perspectives

*'Mystery of the Mass' conclusion;
attitude of prayer*

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

AN ARMY OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Rosary Army members Pat Willits (left), her son, Greg, and husband Dick work on some rosaries in Conyers, Ga., in mid-August. Greg Willits started making rosaries three years ago and formed Rosary Army Inc. on Good Friday in 2003.

One man's passion for rosary launches new ministry

CONYERS, Ga. (CNS) — Greg Willits is 6-foot-5 with a shaved head and a goatee. He's hardly the type of guy one would imagine doing arts and crafts. But love for his faith has inspired Willits and, in turn, hundreds of others to become rosary-making soldiers.

The Willits home, looking from the outside like an unassuming family home, houses the headquarters of an army — an organization that counts prayer as part of its artillery.

Since Willits created the Rosary Army in 2003, people across the country have taken to heart the group's slogan: "Make them, pray them, give them away."

Willits, a "cradle Catholic," in 1995 married his wife, Jennifer, a baptized Catholic who was not practicing the faith. It was during a powerful reconciliation experience with a parish priest that Willits began to embrace the rosary.

"I basically had to relearn it," he said.

He prayed the rosary every day during a 54-day novena.

"I found a lot more peace than I had in a long time," he said.

Willits had always been a creative person, but it was one day, while searching the Internet for instructions to make a twine-knotted rosary, that his life changed. He found some basic instructions and began to make his own rosary,

and soon he was hooked.

The buzz surrounding the Rosary Army was slow at first, with a few people requesting rosaries through its Web site, www.rosaryarmy.com. After word got out, thousands of free, all-twine knotted rosaries have been distributed, and hundreds of "soldiers" have joined the group to make rosaries.

Through the Web site, visitors can learn how to pray the rosary and how to make a twine rosary. Through interactive forums, they can also discuss their faith and make prayer requests. Rosary Army soldiers make the rosaries and send them in to Willits, who then distributes them to those who request them.

At the Atlanta Archdiocese's eucharistic congress, more than 2,500 rosaries were distributed.

"We have sent a rosary to every state in the United States and I don't know how many countries," Willits said.

His family has also become involved. Willits' mother, Pat, serves as the head of quality control, putting metal crucifixes onto the rosaries and checking to make sure they have been properly made. Willits' wife is also heavily involved. As the mother of four boys, Jennifer said that she now looks to Mary as a role model.

"I really try to treat her as a spiritual mother," she said. "I revere her in a new way."

Bishops' task force expanded to include Hurricane Rita aid

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A special task force created by the U.S. bishops to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina will also address the problems expected to be caused by the impact of Hurricane Rita on the Gulf Coast.

Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, task force chairman, announced the expanded responsibility Sept. 23 as Rita approached the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

The archbishop was named to head the task force Sept. 14 by Spokane Bishop William S. Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"As many victims of Hurricane Katrina who took refuge in Galveston-Houston now move on because this region is facing its own hurricane-related danger, this task force is determined to be prepared to address whatever needs will arise in the wake of this second storm," Archbishop Fiorenza said.

The task force made up of bishops and representatives of leading Catholic organizations collecting funds and carrying on relief work was established by the USCCB Administrative Committee.

It aims to build on what is already in place and seeks to:

— Support the many efforts of the affected dioceses.

— Encourage a sustained response from the Catholic community.

— Coordinate the many diverse efforts in order to increase effectiveness, assure accountability and eliminate duplication.

— Examine the future moral and policy implications of this disaster for the church and society.

Members of the task force are Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta; Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz.; and Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Cancer Support Ministry is open to cancer patients, their caregivers and cancer survivors. If you would like to share your experience in a faith-based setting and receive group support and encouragement, join us on the first Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church Office lounge, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 or Bob Wilcocks at (704) 542-1541 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — The Semi-Annual Rosary Rally will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Oct. 9 at 3 p.m. The rally will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, contact Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Dale Mullenix, executive director of the Urban Ministry Center, will present "Homelessness in Mecklenburg County — A Discussion of the Issue and the Faith Community's Response" at the next Just Second Fridays event Oct. 14, 1-2 p.m., in the Atrium Room of the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and lunch is provided. Visit www.cssnc.org for further information about this presentation.

CHARLOTTE — Healing Hearts, a support group for people coping with the death of a spouse, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Rd. For more information, contact Sister Therese Galligan, facilitator, at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John

Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille at (704) 537-2189.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is planning as their annual community project an "Operation Smile" mailing to be held Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Time will be with light refreshments provided. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood, (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Guilford County will meet Oct. 6 in St. Pius X Church's Kloster Center, 2210 North Elm St. A representative from Legal Aid will speak at 7 p.m. At the meeting, plans will be finalized for the Irish Feis Dinner Dance, to be held Oct. 29. For more information, call Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 4145 Johnson St., is offering Free Spanish Classes through Nov. 3. Classes meet Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 869-7739 or e-mail Larry Kwan at hikwan@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — The Reemployment Support Group of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Oct. 6, 7:30-9 p.m. in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says Eucharist should be impetus for love, charity

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The Eucharist should be an impetus for the faithful to love others and attend to their needs through charity, Pope Benedict XVI said at his Sept. 25 noon-time Angelus.

Jesus transformed his death into “a gift of himself, an act of love which he gives completely,” said the pope.

“In the Eucharist, the Lord, with his body, gives himself, his soul and his divinity to us, and we become one with him and among ourselves,” he said to the people gathered in the courtyard of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

The faithful’s response to God’s great act of love and sacrifice “should then be concrete,” he said.

“One must express an authentic conversion to love, in forgiveness, in

mutual welcoming and attention to the needs of all people,” said the pope.

He said there were myriad ways one could serve others every day and that the faithful could look to the Eucharist as a source of energy and inspiration for performing good works.

“In this way the Eucharist becomes the source of the spiritual energy that renews the world in the love of Christ,” he said.

The pope said the saints offered the church examples of people who received strength for their charitable works from the Eucharist.

He highlighted St. Vincent de Paul, the founder of the Daughters of Charity whose feast day was Sept. 27, and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the founder of the Missionaries of Charity.

NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalsess@charter.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will host the *Personal Foundation Program with Rosemary Santillo*, a professional life and business coach. The free sessions will take place Oct. 5 and 19. Attend all sessions or just come for one that sparks your interest. To register, call the faith formation office at (704) 664-7762 or email dconklin@sainttherese.net. For more information about Rosemary Santillo and her programs, visit Coaching at Reflection Rock at www.reflectionrock.com.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others’ experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each

month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles M. Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women’s Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women’s Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Portiuncula Franciscan Spiritual Center, 211 W. Third St., provides an environment, experiences and resources that enable people to meet God in both stillness and activity. A study and action program, *Pace e Bene (Part One): From Violence to Wholeness*, explores nonviolence as a creative and effective process for resolving the conflicts in our lives and in the world. The group will meet Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31, 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Sister Kathy Ganiel, at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail Portiuncula@bellsouth.net.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- Oct. 1 — 5 p.m.
50th Anniversary Celebration
St. Stephen Church, Elkin

Oct. 2 — 11 a.m.
Diaconate Ordination, Agostino Fernandez O.S.B.
Belmont Abbey, Belmont
- Oct. 2-7
Priests’ Retreat
Maggie Valley

Oct. 9 — 9 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, Boone

Synod of Bishops to review liturgical issues, emphasize Sunday Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI presides in October over the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist, an assembly that will review liturgical issues, emphasize the importance of Sunday Mass and mark the close of the “Year of the Eucharist.”

More than 250 bishops from every continent will attend the Oct. 2-23 synod to discuss the theme “The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church.”

The synod will take an in-depth look at many pastoral aspects of the Eucharist, then formulate conclusions that are passed on to the pope for possible use in a later document. The synod’s function has always been advisory, and many observers will be watching the October session to see if the new pope expands that role or gives the synod additional responsibilities.

Pope John Paul II announced the synod on the Eucharist several months before his death. Pope Benedict has embraced the event, saying it will serve to highlight the Eucharist as “the true treasure of the church.”

The potential topics of conversation are many and varied, ranging from liturgical abuses to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Some bishops are expected to zero in on particular

pastoral problems, such as the local shortages of priests to celebrate Sunday Mass or the church’s policy against reception of Communion by Catholics who have divorced and civilly remarried without an annulment.

The working document for the synod, which will be used as a starting point for the synod discussions, said that because Christ is truly present in the Eucharist the sacrament must be treated with dignity and shared only by those who hold the same faith. It repeatedly called for balance in how the Eucharist is celebrated and for universal respect for liturgical norms.

The key problem, according to the working document, is that Catholics have a diminishing awareness of the obligation and benefits of attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist every Sunday. In addition, it said, too few Catholics are aware that the Eucharist can only be received when they are in a “state of grace” — which means receiving the sacrament of penance if a serious sin has been committed.

Pope Benedict opens the synod with a Mass at the Vatican Oct. 2. In the days that follow, bishops and other participants meet in morning and evening sessions in the synod hall, which is closed to outsiders.

Papal transport



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A newly delivered electric car is seen at the Vatican Sept. 21 in this handout photo from Global Electric Motorcars. The car will be used by Pope Benedict XVI for small trips inside the Vatican.

FAITH EXCHANGE

Welcome to Faith Exchange, a new feature in *The Catholic News & Herald* where our readers do the writing. We’ll pick one response to publish in an upcoming issue. Additional responses may be posted on our Web site, www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.

Question of the week: Why is your parish right for you?
Submit your story by e-mail to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or mail to *The Catholic News & Herald*, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203
Photographs are welcome, but cannot be returned.

Remember:
1. Submissions should be 150-200 words. 2. Stories must be completely true. 3. Include your name, hometown, parish and daytime phone number. 4. Deadline for receipt is Oct. 7.

Sharing stewardship



PICTURE BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of the Diocese of Charlotte consult with visitors from the Archdioceses of Brisbane and Melbourne, Australia, at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Sept. 22. It is the third time representatives from Australian dioceses have visited the Diocese of Charlotte to learn firsthand how the diocese implements development and stewardship efforts.

The Office of Development serves parishes, agencies and ministries in their development and stewardship efforts in the Diocese of Charlotte. Services reflect a spirituality of stewardship as a way of life — a response to Jesus' call to discipleship.

Pictured (from left front): Jeremy Howes, financial administrator of the Archdiocese of Brisbane; Kerry Ann Tornosello, stewardship commission chair at St. Therese Church in Mooresville; Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte; John Hurren, general manager of the Catholic Development Fund of the Archdiocese of Melbourne; Father Peter Meneely, moderator of the Archdiocese of Brisbane; Andrew Musial, executive director of archdiocesan services in Brisbane; and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Gathering of faith

Hundreds celebrate Hispanic ministry, culture

LEXINGTON — Hundreds of people gathered recently to celebrate Mexico's Declaration of Independence and the sixth anniversary of Hispanic ministry at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington.

Approximately 300 people attended a dance held at the National Guard Armory Sept. 17, and hundreds gathered outside the church for a bilingual Mass Sept. 18. Mexican independence is celebrated Sept. 16.

"When I was assigned here to Our Lady of the Rosary Church (in July 1998), a woman approached me and asked me to start a Spanish Mass," recalled Oblate Father Al Gondek, pastor.

Unsure at the time if a Spanish-language Mass was needed, Father Gondek waited a year before asking Father Fidel Melo, now pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, to celebrate a Spanish-language Mass on Mexican Independence Day in 1999.

"He graciously accepted and the church was packed," said Father Gondek. "I told them there would be a Spanish Mass every Sunday."

Father Gondek began studying Spanish in order to celebrate Mass and reach out to the Hispanic community.

After the bilingual Mass Sept. 18, Anglo and Hispanic parishioners enjoyed a fiesta with traditional Mexican food, folklore dances and games.



COURTESY PHOTO

Franciscan Father Al Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, celebrates an outdoor, bilingual Mass Sept. 18. The Mass celebrated both Mexican Independence Day and the sixth anniversary of Hispanic outreach at the parish.

"A fantastic time was had by all," said Father Gondek. "These events gave testimony to the city of Lexington that the Catholic Church is vibrant with the 3,000-plus Hispanics who live here."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more on the history of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, please see the Parish Profile on page 16.



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Executive Director, Appalachian Sustainable Development, Abingdon, VA


Second Plenary Presenter (Saturday morning): Sr. Clare McBrien, RSHM
Ecological Educator, Appalachian Office of Justice & Peace, Diocese of Richmond, VA

Third Plenary Presenter (Saturday afternoon): Dr. Robert Gronski
Policy Coordinator, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa

Conference Fee - \$55 per person (Fee includes Saturday breakfast & lunch; Fee does not include lodging. Attendees must make own lodging arrangements with LWCR or area hotels). The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center phone number is 828-926-3833.


Conference participation is limited to 80 Attendees.


For information please contact: The Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 / Ph: 704-370-3225 / Email: justicepeace@charlottediocese.org
A registration form can be found at: www.cssnc.org/justicepeace



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To have and to hold

Teams of Our Lady provide spiritual growth for couples

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Not many people would argue that marriage is a challenge. Jobs, family obligations and worldly temptations all add stress to today's marriages. Fortunately, there are many resources to help marriages, whether they could be described as "in trouble," "wedded bliss" or somewhere in between.

One such resource is Teams of Our Lady, an international movement of married couples founded in 1947 by Father Henri Caffarel, a French priest.

Teams of Our Lady has existed in

the United States since 1958, and the movement continues to grow throughout the nation. It is officially recognized by the Vatican as a lay institute under the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Teams are being formed in the Diocese of Charlotte. Several families attended a picnic at Cane Creek Park in Waxhaw Aug. 28.

The purpose of the Teams of Our Lady movement is growth in the spiritual life of married couples and families through a program of prayer and study. Husband and wife develop intimacy through shared prayer and regular in-depth conversations while making their

Christian faith a daily living experience.

Each team is made up of five to seven couples and a spiritual counselor, often a priest. The goal of each married couple is to help others grow in Christ and, through their marital bond, promote the kingdom of God.

The movement does not impose a particular type of spirituality on its members, but teams agree to practice daily prayer, regular reading and reflection on Scripture; a monthly discussion of family and spiritual matters; and an individual "rule of life" for personal improvement.

"Sacramental Christian marriage not only represents the loving union between Christ and the (Catholic) Church, but makes a couple share in this union," Father Caffarel said in 1959.

For Mary Pat and Vince Arostegui, joining a Team of Our Lady was a chance to grow together spiritually as a couple.

They joined Teams of Our Lady 20 years ago while living in Virginia. Parishioners of St. Matthew Church, they are a "sector couple" and their duties include holding informational meetings in the

diocese and piloting new teams for their first five months.

"We still enjoy the opportunity to be with like-minded Catholics who are curious about their faith," Mary Pat Arostegui said.

Although the mission of Teams of Our Lady is spiritual growth, not marriage enrichment, couples find their marriages grow stronger through their participation, Arostegui said.

Couples involved in Teams of Our Lady include newlyweds as well as couples who have celebrated their golden anniversaries. Arostegui said she is impressed with the commitment young couples give to their marriages.

"These young couples are a blessing to the Catholic Church," she said. "They are willing to put in the effort."

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information about Teams of Our Lady, visit www.teamsofourlady.org or contact Mary Pat Arostegui at (704) 882-8757 or marypatarostegui@carolina.rr.com

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couples citing this as a problem

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Balancing job and family	75
Financial situation	72
Husband's employment	58
Debt brought into the marriage	54

Source: Center for Marriage and Family, Creighton University

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

St. Pius X School advisory board receives national award

GREENSBORO — The advisory board at St. Pius X School in Greensboro is doing some outstanding work.

The board was one of eight governing or advisory boards of Catholic education to receive the Outstanding Board Award from the National Association of Boards, Commissions and Councils of Catholic Education, a department of the National Catholic Education Association.

Gary Fly, president of the St. Pius X School board, accepted the award during the association's annual convention in Philadelphia, Pa., March 30.

According to Dr. Regina Haney, NABCCE executive director, the 2005 award winners

"represent qualities of effective boards that set the example for others."

Projects sponsored or run by the St. Pius X School advisory board include BASH (Building a Scholastic Heritage), a celebration/fundraising event; an annual living rosary; the implementation of new bookkeeping procedures including the purchase and installation of new software; and a long-range plan that reflects the school's mission and facilitates the school's administrative goals.

Achieving excellence

St. Leo the Great named Blue Ribbon School

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem wins the blue ribbon.

St. Leo the Great School is one of 295 schools in the nation to be named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for 2005. It is one of only 10 in North Carolina and the first Catholic school in the diocese to receive the recognition.

"We're all very excited here," said Principal Georgette Schraeder, shortly after learning the news Sept. 23.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools program honors public and private kindergarten-through-12th-grade schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

"The achievement gap is closing and that is great news for every student," said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. "These Blue Ribbon Schools are an example of what teachers and students can achieve."

"In the three-plus years since No Child Left Behind was signed into law, we've learned a new equation: 'Accountability plus high expectations plus resources equals results,'" she said.

The program recognizes schools that

make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. The schools are selected based on one of three criteria:

— schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance on state tests;

— schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests;

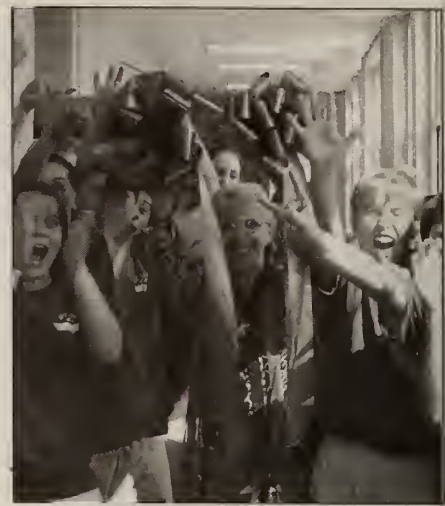
— and private schools that achieve in the top 10 percent in the nation.

"All of our classes are scoring 90 percent or better across the board in reading and math," said Schraeder. "It shows a strong academic program here at St. Leo the Great School."

Under No Child Left Behind, schools must make Adequate Yearly Progress in reading and language arts and mathematics. Each state — not the federal government — sets its own academic standards and benchmark goals, because each state knows best what goals and criteria are most appropriate for its school districts.

"They also look for community outreach and ecumenical projects," said Schraeder.

Schraeder and Christine Hurley, the school media specialist who assisted with the program's academic reports, will represent the school and receive an



COURTESY PHOTO BY DONNA BIRKEL

Principal Georgette Schraeder and eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School celebrate their Blue Ribbon status Sept. 23.

award certificate from President George W. Bush during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November.

"Being a Catholic school in a mostly non-Catholic state, this recognition is good for us," said Schraeder. "It's an affirmation of all the work we've done and it helps us feel more confident to work harder and try new things."

"Seeing your hard work rewarded is a blessing," she said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Blue Ribbon Schools program, visit www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html

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St. Patrick Catholic School (K-5)

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EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Thousands enriched at Eucharistic Congress

CONGRESS, from page 1

The procession was part of the first diocesan Eucharistic Congress Sept. 23-24 — two days of prayer, praise, worship and music centered on the holy Eucharist. An estimated 7,000 people attended the congress.

"The whole Eucharistic Congress far exceeded my expectations," said Bishop Jugis. "The response was significant in that the people of our diocese were hungering for an event of this sort where they could come together to celebrate their faith and love for the Lord."

Heavenly voices

A collection of sacred choral music opened the congress Friday evening, Sept. 23. The choir, comprised of parishioners from churches around the diocese, performed music from several eras of church history.

"The number of people who attended the concert exceeded my expectations," said Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden and chair of the Eucharistic Congress steering committee.

"Many people said they enjoyed the concert and that it benefited and enriched them," he said.

After the concert, actor Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in the movie "The Passion of the Christ," spoke about his Catholic faith and challenged participants to embrace their faith in the midst of the diversity in American culture.

Eucharistic procession

Knights of Columbus color guard and first communicants from around the diocese, who kissed and then dropped rose petals, led the eucharistic procession Saturday morning. They were followed by deacons and priests of the diocese and guest clergy.

Bishop Jugis carried the Blessed

Sacrament in a monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II. The congress was in part due to the late pope's proclamation of the Year of the Eucharist, which ends with the Synod of Bishops Oct. 2-23.

"In his apostolic letter inaugurating the Year of the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II asked that we maintain a sense of eucharistic amazement in the church, that we allow ourselves to be amazed — to be in awe and in wonder — at the miracle of the holy Eucharist," said Bishop Jugis.

Following Bishop Jugis in the procession were banners representing many of the 92 parishes and missions in the diocese. Hundreds of people watching the procession joined in as their parish's banner passed by.

"I've had tears in my eyes, watching the different congregations go by, singing hymns and praying the rosary," said Jim Keidel of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte and grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 10505.

"But seeing the bishop carrying the monstrance, especially here in the south, and seeing our Catholic faith prospering and growing is a great feeling," said Keidel.

"It's the first time I've participated in anything like this," said Beanie DeJean of Holy Family Church in Clemmons. "It is such a profession of our Catholic faith. It will stick with me a long time."

Walking in the procession were Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, a former bishop of Charlotte, and Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey.

Groups participating in the procession included Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, Knights and Dames of Malta, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Belmont Abbey College, rosary and eucharistic adoration groups, Holy Crusaders and Filipino-American groups.

"We were able to demonstrate to the community the spiritual energy emanating from Filipino spirituality and Filipino religious culture," said Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith formation ministries.

"By including us in this Eucharistic Congress, we felt very proud of our religious tradition and we felt empowered to use this event as a teaching moment for our children," he said.

"What better avenue to bring us together than the Eucharist, the sacrament of unity, which makes us the living Body of Christ," said Bishop Jugis.

Holy hour

The procession led into the convention center's main ballroom, where a holy hour followed with eucharistic adoration, prayer and song. Giant view screens projected happenings on the stage to participants both inside and outside the ballroom.

"During the holy hour, although there were thousands of people in the room, there was a reverent silence (during the adoration) that impressed me," said Bishop Jugis. "I attribute it to our love for the Lord and reverence for the great mystery of the Eucharist there on



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Thousands of people kneel reverently as Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II into the main ballroom of the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 24.

the altar."

Bishop Curlin reminded the congress participants that they were the living Body of Christ and challenged them to discover Jesus inside themselves.

"This (congress) should change the Diocese of Charlotte," said Bishop Curlin. "This should set us on fire with a burning desire to go out and serve the world."

The Eucharist was then taken to an adoration chapel. As it passed by, the convention center was quiet, with thousands on their knees in reverent silence.

Eucharistic adoration, said Bishop Jugis, is an integral part of expressing the Catholic faith in the Eucharist.

"We have the celebration of the Mass, and we have eucharistic processions, but an equally valid expression of our faith in the Real Presence is the silent adoration of our Lord, when we allow him to speak to us and move us," he said.

"All of these expressions were present during the course of the congress," said Bishop Jugis.

Around the congress

A dozen speakers offered inspiring talks throughout the day to adults, teens and children. Congress participants also could visit the vendor area or spend time in eucharistic adoration. Priests were available to hear confessions in both English and Spanish. A Mass celebrated by Bishop Jugis and concelebrated by priests and visiting clergy closed the congress.

"During the Mass, I realized all the wonderful things that had taken place during the Year of the Eucharist and during this congress," said Father Arnsperger. "To look out and see so many people gathered from around the diocese was wonderful."

"I am grateful for the participation of all the faithful at this Mass," said Bishop Jugis during his homily.

"Pope Benedict XVI remarked at his Mass of installation: the Church is alive and the Church is young. The same can be said today of this gathering of the Church of Charlotte," said the bishop.

Congress reflections

Approximately 350 volunteers helped

to keep the congress running smoothly.

"This congress would not have happened or been a success if it had not been for the harmonious working together of the volunteers, staff and steering committee," said Bishop Jugis.

"It was tremendous participation and goodwill from everyone, and what was produced was a beautiful tribute to the glory of God," he said.

Bishop Jugis also was grateful to those who attended the congress from near and far.

"I am thankful to the parishioners who made the sacrifices to come from areas far distant from Charlotte to be present and participate in the congress," he said.

Many people who attended the congress felt rejuvenated in their faith.

"It was so inspiring. It's a proud day to be a Catholic," said Kathy Moran, a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

"I wish we could do this every week," she said.

"Many of the priests said this congress was a wonderful thing for the diocese. And many people asked if we could do this again," said Father Arnsperger. "Plans are already underway."

During the closing Mass, Bishop Jugis announced the plans for another Eucharistic Congress next year. His remarks were met with thunderous applause.

"As soon as I saw the crowds at the concert and at the procession, I realized this would not be a one-time event and will be something we will continue in the future," said Bishop Jugis.

"Everywhere I went during the congress, people were thanking me for making this available," he said. "We presented an opportunity for our Catholic people to celebrate and the Holy Spirit took it, ran with it and multiplied the blessings."

Those blessings, said Bishop Jugis, will continue to spread throughout the diocese.

"I believe that from this congress, the excitement and interest in the holy Eucharist will continue to grow around the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.



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Speakers impart messages of faith at Eucharistic Congress

SPEAKERS, from page 1

Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in the movie "The Passion of the Christ."

"I enjoyed his talk. He challenged us to not be afraid to be Catholic and to live our faith in the midst of the diversity in American culture," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Caviezel spoke also about the spiritual effect of portraying Jesus on film.

"His presentation was compelling about his getting into the role and mind of Christ," said Bishop Jugis. "He said it had a lasting effect on his spiritual life."

Bishop Jugis said Caviezel's experiences were a good model for Catholics.

"We should draw close to our Lord in prayer, seek friendship with him and live in union with him," said Bishop Jugis. "Being like Christ, identifying with him, will have an effect on our spiritual lives as well."

Dr. Dora Tobar, a theology professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., spoke in Spanish on "Living Hosts for a Hungry World."

In his last encyclical, "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," Pope John Paul II wrote that the eucharistic celebration occurs not only in the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, but also with Catholics' conversion to be the "ecclesiastical body of Christ."

This means, said Tobar, that taking part in the eucharistic table transforms people into active members of the church whose mission is to communicate Christ to the world.

"Dr. Tobar said husbands and wives need to be Christ for one another," said Antonio Garcia, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Asheville Vicariate.



"Men need to realize that when they deny their children (such as through abortion), they are saying 'no' to Christ," he said.

Approximately 700 people attended the Hispanic track, according to Ricardo Veloz, coordinator of diocesan Hispanic youth and young adult ministry.

Father Leo Patalinghug, associate pastor of St. John Church in Westminster, Md., and spiritual director of the Cursillo Movement of Baltimore, spoke to teenagers about "Spiritual Combat."

Being a Catholic often makes young people targets of criticism and temptation, said Father Patalinghug. To combat evil and temptation, he said youths need three "spiritual weapons" — patience, balance and joy.

"Part of being Catholic is being a bridge to God and reaching out to others who don't know God," he said. "But to do so, you first must know God yourself."

To be successful, youths need to stay balanced in their faith and beliefs.

"You need to keep your eyes on a target that never moves — Jesus," said Father Patalinghug.

Charlie Aeschliman, a former U.S. Navy S.E.A.L. and basketball-handling champion, spoke to teens about "Basketball and Eucharistic Strength."

"It was great hearing (Aeschliman) talk about perseverance," said Reed Ignizio, a parishioner at St. Barnabas Church. "(Perseverance) is very important if you want to accomplish anything in life."

Father Antoine Thomas, a member of the Congregation of St. John who began leading holy hours for youngsters in his native France in 1994, guided the teens through a period of eucharistic adoration.

"He showed that even the youngest person is capable of religious expression, even silent, focused adoration of the Blessed Sacrament," said Bishop Jugis.

Young people participate in the celebration of Mass, said Bishop Jugis, but it is good for them to know other expressions of their faith in the Eucharist, such as the eucharistic procession and eucharistic adoration.

"I hope experiencing eucharistic adoration will engender in their hearts a hunger for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament," said Bishop Jugis. "Maybe that hunger for quiet adoration will move their parents to participate with them in adoration at their parishes."

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY AND KAREN A. EVANS

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands before the Eucharist outside St. Peter Church in uptown Charlotte Sept. 24. Bottom far left: Charlie Aeschliman, a basketball-handling champion, spins basketballs for teens Sept. 24. Below left: Father Leo Patalinghug from Maryland uses martial arts to relay "spiritual combat" to teens Sept. 24. Below right: A girl prays during eucharistic adoration at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 24.



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Understanding of Eucharist deepened at Congress

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — They came from different parishes, different backgrounds, different cultures.

But for many of the estimated 7,000 people who attended the diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 23-24, they were there to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist.

"Since we live in an area where Catholicism is sparse, we don't usually have the opportunity to gather like this," said Janice Steiner, a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe who brought her teenagers to the congress.

"Hopefully, (the congress) will give them and us the fire to truly ignite our faith."

A dozen speakers offered inspiring talks throughout the day to participants. Sacred music was incorporated into the various events and Mass. Confession and eucharistic adoration was available.

"The celebration of the Eucharist and the songs made me very emotional," said Hope Ziglar, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

"Just being with those who are honoring the Eucharist is spectacular," said Peggy Zohorsky, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"The faith that they (the speakers) have and how they express it to people is fantastic," she said. "This is bringing me a deeper faith in the Eucharist."

Gilberto Garcia from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville came to see speaker Scott Hahn, a theology and Scripture professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, who spoke on "The Lamb's Supper" and his conversion to Catholicism.

"I came to learn about the Eucharist," said Garcia. "The more I walk in my Catholic faith, the more I am convinced what it means to be Catholic, for I see the beauty of Catholicism."

Joan Zdanski of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville believes many people take the Eucharist for granted.

"We don't fully realize that it is truly Jesus in the Eucharist. This Eucharistic Congress gave us the opportunity to understand more and receive more graces as a community," she said.

"It was powerful to see so many people kneeling on the sidewalks and in the streets of Charlotte (as the eucharistic procession passed by)," said Zdanski. "The sacredness of the event became more obvious to me as different ethnic groups sang and prayed in their parish communities."

Carolyn Tazioli, a parishioner of Our Lady of Angels Church in Marion, said she was already looking forward to next year's Eucharistic Congress.

"I came away with such a spiritual uplifting due the speakers, the bishop, the camaraderie and the enthusiasm of our fellow Catholics," she said. "This event was for every person of every age. We have all been blessed by this."



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY AND KAREN A. EVANS

Top left: Confession is heard during the Eucharistic Congress. Top right: Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries the monstrance during the eucharistic procession in uptown Charlotte Sept. 24. Above: Banners representing various parishes and groups in the Diocese of Charlotte are carried in the eucharistic procession. Right: Vendors sell merchandise to participants



Above: First communicants kiss and drop rose petals before the Eucharist during the eucharistic procession Sept. 24.

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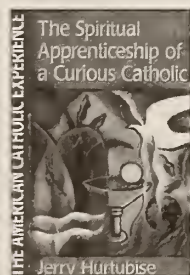
'Curious Catholic' letters to son become popular book

BY SHARON LITTLE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Pay attention to your next-door neighbor and the cashier at the grocery store. They, and many others, may offer lessons your heart needs to learn.

That's the kind of attitude that San Francisco attorney Jerry Hurtubise has taken to his own heart through the years, and it's evident in his new book, "The Spiritual Apprenticeship of a Curious Catholic."

Hurtubise, who provides legal assistance to severely injured people in San Francisco, said he initially intended the recollections from his childhood to be letters to his son, Peter, now 15, so he



would know something of his father's growing-up years.

His own father died unexpectedly when he was 13, and it was the absence of personal knowledge about his dad's childhood that motivated him to write.

Friends persuaded him to turn the recollections into a book, and ACTA Publications in Skokie, Ill., made it the first in its American Catholic Experience series, aimed at giving voice to lay men and women concerning their Catholic faith.

With an Irishman's wit, Hurtubise has chronicled a variety of experiences that make easy, enjoyable reading. One

of the funniest is his recollection of his first confession as a second-grader when, in an attempt to bring to the priest a sin worthy of forgiving, he confessed to adultery.

Growing up in Indiana, Hurtubise became an attorney, in large part because of an interest in the United Farm Workers union and in social justice issues related to migrants.

Today, Hurtubise is happy in his chosen vocation. Peter read his father's letters, and even helped edit them.

Hurtubise thinks and hopes the book and its positive stories will become more important and meaningful to Peter when he grows older.

The point the author hopes readers will take from the book, he said, "is that providence works with a person, especially in the most trying times. God puts people in your life to help you get through certain periods."

The volume has received praise from death-penalty opponent Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, and Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"Occasionally something is written causing us to reflect upon and more fully appreciate our common Catholic experience," said Sister Prejean in a back-cover blurb about the book. "This refreshingly unmoralistic, often poetic, book is one such experience."

Father Hesburgh said, "In this age of uncertainty in our church, these beautifully written memoirs of a Catholic as a young man could not have come at a more opportune time."

Despite its popularity, however, "The Spiritual Apprenticeship of a Curious Catholic" may be the author's only book.

"I have nothing left to say; that's all I wanted to say," Hurtubise said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 9, 2005

Oct. 9, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalm 3:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
- 2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
- 3) Matthew 22:1-14

During crisis, we can feed on feast of God

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Recently, we have been eyewitnesses to history as we have watched the cataclysmic destruction and suffering along the Gulf Coast. Our view, however, has been limited by the perspective of each television company's camera.

On the first weekend after the hurricane, we had numbers of visitors in our parish who had made it out and were staying with relatives. Countless stories of escape and survival culminated with someone saying, "Everything we had is gone, but thank God we're alive!"

By mid-week a friend and I visited

with people in the Arlington, Texas, Salvation Army shelter. We listened to folks tell their stories.

One mother told us that she was so thankful the children were back in school because school was something normal and their blank stares were disappearing. The children came home during our visit and were eager to talk about how great their school day had been.

As we were leaving I saw a little boy leaning against the pillow on his bed, eating chips, cheese, grapes and a cookie. The look on his mother's face told me how thankful she was for her son's after-school feast. In that moment I knew something both of the importance of a feast and what it is to be an eyewitness to history.

In the readings from Isaiah and from Matthew's Gospel we find images of the great feasts of the Lord. Each feast story illustrates the generosity and compassion of God as well as God's promise never to desert us.

Even in times of greatest peril the images of the great feast of the Lord help us to remember that we never are truly alone.

Questions:

When, recently, have you been invited to "feast" on the riches of God? How have you responded?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 8

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43; Monday, Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11, Jonah 2:2-5, 8, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (St. Francis of Assisi), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; Friday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9 - OCTOBER 15

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14; Monday, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; Tuesday, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; Wednesday, Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; Thursday, Romans 3:21-30, Luke 11:47-54; Friday (St. Callistus), Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; Saturday (St. Teresa of Avila), Romans 4:13, 13-18, Luke 12:8-12.

Please join us to
Celebrate Women as Daughters of God!

2nd Annual St. Gabriel's Women's Day
Keynote Speaker: Marilyn Kravatz

Saturday, October 15 9 am - 2 pm



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This 'Game' worth playing



CNS PHOTO FROM WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Shia LaBeouf and Josh Flitter star in "The Greatest Game Ever Played," an absorbing and inspiring true-life story of a young amateur working-class golfer, Francis Ouimet, who played against British golf champion Harry Vardon in the 1913 U.S. Open. Director Bill Paxton's film is filled with excellent period detail, and though the pace is leisurely, the color palette muted and the dialogue low-key, the themes of class conflict, achievement against improbable odds, loyalty and good sportsmanship are vividly drawn, and the golf sequences are grippingly suspenseful. This film contains minimal, mild language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

'Flightplan' (CNS)

A thriller set aboard a jumbo jet in which a recently widowed passenger (Jodie Foster) questions her sanity as she desperately searches for her young daughter who mysteriously disappeared midflight, leaving no trace she was ever on board.

The tautly paced nail-biter maintains a high-suspense altitude, though the script experiences increasing turbulence

in its story logic and plausibility leading to a more conventional action climax.

Several intense sequences, some violence, minimal crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Are you Catholic, but not active? Do you feel unwelcome,
"on the edge," "in exile" in your own Church?*

COME HOME! WE MISS YOU!

Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont will begin a
ministry for our inactive Catholic brothers and sisters
who wish to find a safe place to return.



CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME
will take place Mondays,
October 3 - 24, at 7-8:30 pm
in the Kovacic Center (next to the church).

To find YOUR place in the Church again, or just to talk about your situation,
contact Dennis Teall-Fleming at teallfleming@yahoo.com or 704-868-9392.

*No strings attached - no fees, no sign-ups, no obligations!
Just come and be among friends in a safe place, in your own Church!*

We miss you - and we need you there!

SPREADING JOY AND LAUGHTER THROUGH CLOWNING!

Is there a clown hiding inside of you? Does your VBS program, Church or office retreat, men or women's group, or mission trip need some revitalizing?

Then this workshop is for you.



St. Matthew Church is hosting a Clown Ministry Workshop, Saturday, October 8th from 9AM to 4PM in the Family Room, Parish Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Charlotte.

Featured workshops: Balloon 101, Make-up 101, Creative skit building, and Hospital and Nursing Home Clowning.

Bring a bag lunch (beverages provided). Everyone's invited - ages 17 to 107! - so come and join us for a day of fun and laughter.

**Pre-registration requested: Julie "O. B. Joyfull" Jahn
704-708-9225 or cell 704-560-9202.**

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors



THREE DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Thursday, Oct. 13th - St. Mark, Huntersville - 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter: Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, Pastor, St. Pius X Church

Mass Celebrant: Bishop Peter Jugis

** Deadline to register: Oct. 6th

Thursday, Oct. 20th - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory - 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Ed Sheridan, Pastor, St. Gabriel Church

** Deadline to register: Oct. 11

Thursday, Oct. 27th - St. Eugene, Asheville - 10 am - 3:30 pm

Presenter & Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, Chaplin, Belmont Abbey

**Deadline to register: Thurs., Oct. 20th

Cost: \$10 - includes coffee and pastries, and full lunch

Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry,**

1123 S. Church St.,
Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

For more information call: Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

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Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Payment: For information, call (704) 370-3332.

CCHS student in movie

ACTOR, from page 1

Ferrell is filming a NASCAR-themed movie in the Charlotte area. He plays a top driver who falls on hard times after being defeated by a French Formula One driver.

Ferrell's character, Ricky Bobby, goes to work as a pizza delivery driver to make ends meet.

Matt, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, plays a teenage delivery driver who makes fun of Bobby.

Matt began acting with Charlotte's Children's Theater when he was in the seventh grade. A parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church, he also plays running back on Catholic's undefeated varsity football team.

A couple of years ago, Matt signed on with a local talent agency, looking for work in commercials. A few weeks ago, the agency called him about auditioning for the Ferrell movie.

Matt said Ferrell goaded the star-struck young actor by kidding around with him prior to shooting the scene when Matt's character insults Bobby with the line "Hey, Ricky, are you on fire?"

In the scene, Bobby stands out, literally — Ferrell is 6 feet 3 inches tall — in his uniform of denim shorts, green shirt and orange cap — thus igniting the "on fire" line.



COURTESY PHOTO

CCHS senior Matt Day, left, poses with actor Will Ferrell on the set of Ferrell's NASCAR-themed movie, currently being filmed in the Charlotte area.

Matt hopes this won't be his last on-screen performance. He plans to try acting in college (he hasn't decided to which school he wants to go next year) and looks forward to someday having a bigger role in another Will Ferrell movie.

And that \$700, plus residuals, he got paid for one day's work? Most of it will go toward paying for college, but "my mom's letting me keep some of it," he said.

If acting doesn't work out, Matt said he might go to law school.

Stay tuned for Matt's big-screen debut, coming to a theater near you in 2006.

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FROM THE COVER

Faith groups oppose war

PROTEST, from page 1

people for a march past the White House to the National Mall.

Other Catholic participants included members of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Catholic Worker movement, as well as individual Catholics such as 1976 Nobel Peace Prize-winner Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, whose vigil outside President George W. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, drew national attention during the summer.

"We believe our presence was required," Jones said, adding that his organization's opposition to the war in Iraq is built upon the late Pope John Paul II's statement that war is "always a defeat for humanity."

"We wanted to say that it is still a defeat three years later, and it will still be a defeat three years from now," Jones told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 26 telephone interview.

He said "the faith-based contingent was huge" at the Sept. 24 demonstration and that an evening interfaith service Sept. 25 under two tents on the grounds of the Washington Monument had "the spirit of tent revivals" of the past.

Maguire spoke at the interfaith service, representing Pax Christi USA, Jones said.

Officials from Jewish, Muslim, Quaker, Buddhist, Mennonite and mainline Protestant houses of worship also spoke or led prayers during the service, which was organized by Clergy and Laity Concerned About Iraq and United for Peace and Justice.

On Sept. 26, Sheehan was the first of several dozen protesters arrested in front of the White House for failing to move on when ordered to by police. Other Catholics arrested included Jesuit Father Simon Harak and Marie Dennis, vice chairwoman of Pax Christi International.

The "demands for the demonstration" included U.S. withdrawal from Puerto Rico and the Philippines; an end to "threats against Venezuela, Cuba, Iran and North Korea"; no military recruiting in schools or communities; and defense of civil rights against "the racist, anti-immigrant and anti-labor offensive at home."

As the demonstrators were gathering, leaders of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Sisters and Lay Missioners issued a joint statement Sept. 23 reiterating

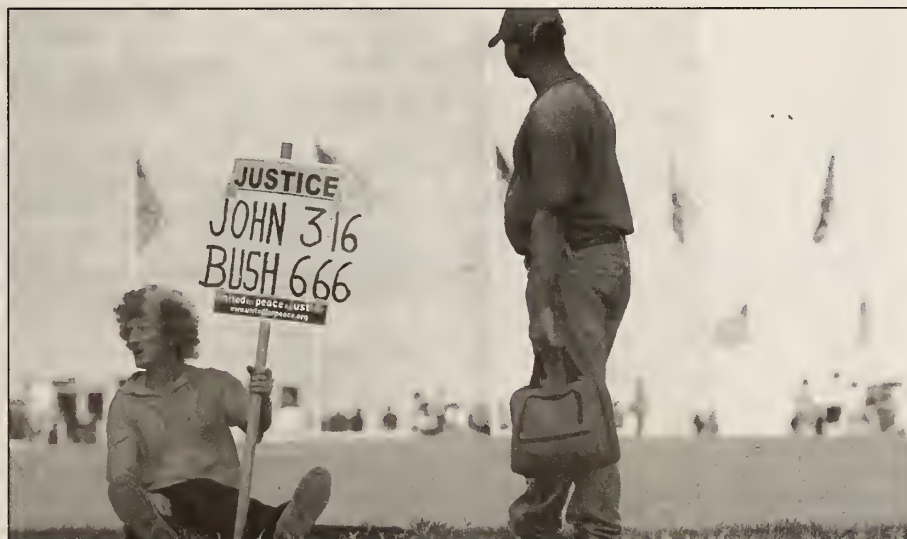
"with even greater vigor" their opposition to the war in Iraq, which they first formally opposed in February 2003.

"The cost of war in terms of human life and suffering for the people of Iraq, for our own service people and their families, and for others involved in the conflict has been unconscionable," they said. "The burden of war has been carried by the poor and vulnerable as military expenditures steal funds from social programs in the U.S. and around the world."

"We the people can help by beseeching Congress that monies allocated to Iraq arrive there, that we cease the establishment of permanent bases, and that troops are withdrawn quickly yet in a manner conducive to the well-being of the people of Iraq," they added.

The Maryknoll leaders called for quick withdrawal of all U.S. "military troops, bases and secret prisons" and for U.S.-financed reconstruction in Iraq, "repairing damage caused by the invasion, occupation and years of U.S.-led sanctions."

"Reconstruction projects should not provide another windfall for U.S. firms," they said. "Contracts should provide jobs for Iraqi workers and companies."



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A protester displays a sign during an anti-war rally and march in Washington Sept. 24. More than 100,000 people gathered for the protest and among the participants was a contingent of Catholic peace groups, including Pax Christi.

Oct. 8, 2005 Annual Sisters of Mercy Bazaar & Yard Sale

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then shop
the best!**

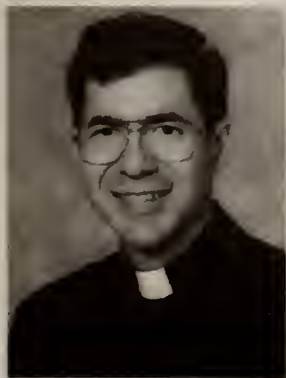
YARD SALE: 9 am - noon, at former YMCA site, now McCarthy Spirituality Center, Sacred Heart College campus. Bargains galore on furniture, lamps, home healthcare equipment, chairs, desks, computer equipment, office and kitchen items, artwork, children's games, toys, clothes & more!

BAZAAR: 10 am - 4 pm, Curtin Hall, Mercy Administration Center, Sacred Heart campus. Features handcrafted jewelry, Christmas crafts, quilts, baby sets and blankets, homemade relishes, baked goods, nuts, jams & jellies! Enjoy our famous footlong hot dogs while you browse. Raffles for first, second & third place prizes of \$1,000, \$500 & \$250, respectively. Proceeds benefit Sisters of Mercy Ministries.

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"No Greater Gift"



Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 13, 2005

Featured Speaker
Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director of "Priests For Life"
www.priestsforlife.org

Registration/Reception: 5:30pm
Seating for Dinner: 6:40pm

Reservations are free, but required.

To make your reservation or to host a table of eight, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroommattheinn@carolina.rr.com ASAP!

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Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

A pledge of future glory

Understanding the Mystery of the Mass, Conclusion

For the past 26 lessons, we have examined and discussed the constitutive parts of the holy sacrifice of the Mass. We have focused our attention on the basic structure and historical, theological and spiritual significance of each part of the Mass.

However, a study such as the one we just completed, that attempts to dissect its subject, may leave the audience with the impression that the Mass is a loose compilation of dissimilar parts. Therefore, it is necessary to reiterate the essential coherence of the Mass as one single act of worship, a reality that we mentioned from the beginning.

Indeed from beginning to end, with all its parts, the holy sacrifice of the Mass is the prayer of self-sacrifice and thanksgiving of the Son of God offered to the eternal Father, in which we, as his Mystical Body, render to God worship, adoration, praise and thanksgiving. In each Mass, we unite ourselves with the worship of Jesus Christ, the high priest and victim, unto the Father in the Holy Spirit.

By recalling the events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection at every Mass, we are truly present at Calvary, present when Christ offered the one perfect sacrifice of his body and blood to the Father and offered the fruits of his sacrifice to you and me.

And so, the Mass provides us access to the saving mysteries of our faith: the events of the past are brought into the present that the benefits of our redemption may be applied to our souls. Therefore, the past 26 lessons of the Mass have dealt principally with examining the events of the past that are brought into the present at each Holy Mass.

But what about the future?

Indeed, there is still a further explanation that is necessary, a further aspect of the Mass not yet investigated: the eschatological reality, the final end toward which the holy sacrifice of the Mass is directed.

In his encyclical on the holy Eucharist, "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," Pope John Paul II discusses the eschatological reality of the Holy Mass:

The Eucharist is a straining toward the goal, a foretaste of the fullness of joy promised by Christ (Cf. John 15:11); it is in some way the anticipation of heaven, the "pledge of future glory." In the Eucharist, everything speaks of confident waiting "in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ" (EE #18).

And not only does the Holy Eucharist anticipate future glory, but the Holy

Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST



Father explains that in the Mass, our bond of communion with the Church already in heaven is strengthened, that we actually participate in the heavenly liturgy:

The eschatological tension kindled by the Eucharist expresses and reinforces our communion with the Church in heaven.... This is an aspect of the Eucharist, which merits greater attention: in celebrating the sacrifice of the Lamb, we are united to the heavenly "liturgy" and become part of that great multitude which cries out: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:10).

The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth. It is a glorious ray of the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey (EE #19).

Therefore, our participation in the holy sacrifice of the Mass anticipates and prepares us for our eternal occupation in heaven, of offering praise, glory, adoration and worship to the Father with the Son in the Holy Spirit.

And as we await the second coming of the Lord, the advent of his promised return in glory, the Church orients herself to the east, the land of the rising sun, and faithfully continues to "Do this in memory of me."

The mystery of the Mass is thus represented on every altar in every Catholic Church throughout time and history, so that we may unite ourselves to the mystery of divine love, which impelled St. Thomas Aquinas to exclaim: "O Sacred Banquet, in which Christ becomes our food, the memory of his passion is celebrated, the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us" (Cf. CCC #1402).

Father Buettner is parochial vicar of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

WANT PREVIOUS COLUMNS?

Father Buettner's "Mystery of the Mass" series is available online at www.charlottediocese.org/mysteryofmass.html.

WANT TO COMMENT?

Feedback is welcomed regarding Father Buettner's series, "Understanding the Mystery of the Mass." Please send your comments to kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

Learning to coast

Raise your ingenuity as gas prices remain high

It's no exaggeration to say gasoline prices have reached a crisis point that is causing a ripple-down effect on everything we purchase.

As ominous as the word "crisis" sounds, it comes from the Greek and means a crossroads; it also denotes an opportunity to take a fresh route leading to new discoveries.

While the gasoline crisis is causing hardships, it is also changing Americans for the better.

For example, we are seeing a new surge in carpooling. And people in carpools find they are more relaxed not having to drive every day. They also tend to enjoy the opportunity it gives them to socialize.

The better gas mileage that many cars now are getting is another change for the good. We've known for a long time that gas mileage was a problem, but no one did much about it. But now not only is action being taken, but we are seeing that more and more people prefer hybrid cars that get excellent gas mileage.

I have found it interesting that as gas prices changed, so did my driving habits.

In years past, I bicycled across this country. The roads taken were anything but flat. So when you are on a bike all day, you learn to conserve energy. I now find myself applying what I learned on those trips to my driving.

Whenever I would come to a crest in the road and start downhill on my bike, I would consciously put it into a coasting mode. After repeatedly doing this, I developed a sense of soft-pedaling and gliding. I've adapted this technique to driving by paying more attention to crests in the road and when to soft-pedal things

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



while maintaining appropriate speed.

I've become aware that half the miles I travel to and from work are slightly downhill. Then there are the down ramps. By design, most of them are steep, and you don't need to "drive" your car down them to maintain the proper speed before arriving at the highway.

Another technique I use is to take notice of stop lights and stop signs ahead of me. So many people drive right up to them and slam on the brakes. In most cases when we see a red light or stop sign, we can begin coasting 100 to 200 yards before reaching them without causing a problem to drivers behind us.

Yet another technique at a stop light is momentarily to lift the foot off the brake as it changes and to let the car roll five or 10 yards before applying the gas. Most people spurt as soon as the light changes. By letting the car roll ever so little, the engine works less in moving dead weight.

If we treat our car engine as if we were conserving our "legs," we will learn that our energetic cars can be just as energetic on less fuel. Equally important, we will be turning a crisis into a new adventure in driving.

The first pope who chose another name for himself

Q. We are told that for centuries popes have changed their names on becoming bishop of Rome, as our new pope took the name Benedict instead of his baptism name Joseph.

Do we know who was the first pope to take another name? (Florida)

A. The first pope we know of who chose another name was Pope John II, who was elected in 533. He was a Roman priest named Mercurius (Mercury), who felt it would not be appropriate for the leader of the Catholic Church to have the name of a pagan god.

Pope Sergius IV, pope from 1009 to 1012, often is mistakenly identified as the first to assume a new name. His given name was Peter, but after his election he chose another, out of deference to St. Peter the apostle. He was not the first to do so, however.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

The new media — tell a friend

Good news spreads without secular press

Communicators often use the word “channels” to describe the different ways a message can travel from a sender to a receiver. A channel can be as simple as word of mouth publicity or as complex and expensive as a full-page magazine advertisement or television commercial.

For most organizations, especially nonprofits, the holy grail of channels is the news media. A news media announcement of an upcoming event is free publicity, so for starters you can’t beat the price.

In addition, the presence of reporters, especially those with television cameras, has a tendency to validate the event. Organizers can say, “The news media showed up, this must be important.”

Over the last year I worked to communicate the message of the first Eucharistic Congress to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte. It was an exciting time at the Pastoral Center as the steering committee met monthly to discuss our plans. We lined up speakers, rented the Charlotte Convention Center and asked volunteers to help us.

In choosing my communication channels, I decided to put the news media at the bottom of my list. Although I believed that the eucharistic procession through the streets of uptown Charlotte would be a compelling story, and I prayed that we would have a turnout that justified the cost of staging the event, I knew I didn’t have any proof that what was being planned would happen on the scale for which I hoped.

Since this was our first congress, I

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST



could only guess at the turnout. And because the centerpiece of the congress was the Eucharist — something the general news media finds difficult to understand — I didn’t expect much coverage in advance of the event.

The effort to promote the congress focused on word of mouth, the Internet and *The Catholic News and Herald*. A network of 61 parish contacts was at the core of the communication effort, talking up the event, hanging posters and making sure that bulletin and pulpit announcements were made on a regular basis.

Advertisements and articles in this diocesan newspaper and the Web site answered most questions about the congress and did a great deal to increase interest.

As the event drew closer, the secular media took note and several small articles appeared in newspapers around the diocese. The coverage was welcomed, but by the time it appeared, all of our other channels were in high gear.

On the day of the event, the coverage that was planned by *The Charlotte Observer*, the largest newspaper in the Carolinas, failed to materialize so there

was no mention or dramatic picture of the event in the Sunday paper. The religion editor called me on Monday to explain that someone had dropped the ball and that they would do better next time.

He also mentioned that they had already received calls and letters from readers wondering why the paper didn’t cover the story.

Anyone who attended the congress will tell you that it was an impressive event. An estimated 7,000 people attended throughout the day, and the vigil Mass Saturday afternoon filled the cavernous ballroom to overflowing with more than 4,000 people praying, singing and listening to the Word of God as we witnessed the miracle of the Eucharist on a grand scale.

The lesson from this episode is that secular media coverage of church events isn’t nearly as valuable as word of mouth, the World Wide Web and this diocesan newspaper; and while the presence of the news media is welcome, it isn’t needed to validate our dedication to the Eucharist.

Next year we will have a track record of success and some dramatic photos. I suspect that the news media will be very interested in Eucharistic Congress II.

What about you? Would you like to be a parish contact for next year’s congress? Send me an e-mail if you are interested in helping. The date hasn’t yet been determined, but I now know from experience that whenever it takes place, plenty of help is going to be needed to make it as successful as our first Eucharistic Congress.

David Hains is director of communication for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

At audience, pope prays repeatedly for peace

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI, speaking at his weekly audience, prayed repeatedly for peace.

“Oh Lord, let your face shine upon us today for the benefit of peace and, in these times, give us and all people on earth harmony and peace,” he said Sept. 28.

God’s “divine love becomes concrete and nearly observable in history with all its bitter and glorious events,” he told some 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

Today, God’s redemptive and protective power “reaches us now in Christ,” he said.

“Oh Lord, let your face shine on us for the benefit of peace, to protect us with your powerful hand and save us from every sin ... and rescue us from those who unjustly hate us,” the pope said, quoting from the writings of Pope St. Clement I.

He said this first-century pope’s prayer can be a prayer for the faithful today.

Pope Benedict asked God, who is “the only one capable of carrying out these works that are greater than us,” to grant harmony and peace to all the people of the world.

At the end of his audience, the pope mentioned a group of Palestinians and Israelis who were to attend a peace seminar in Rome.

In his catechesis reflecting on Psalm 135, the pope said the psalm offers praise to God who “is greater than all gods” and does all that he wills “in heaven and on earth.”

The psalm, he said, attributes the slaying of Israel’s enemies and Israel’s inheritance of the promised land to “the powerful intervention of God.”

God intervened in history with his “awesome” and “wonderful works,” showing “his face as redeemer of his people and sovereign of the world,” said the pope.

“The liturgy has the task of making the divine gifts ever present and efficacious,” he said, showing them to lead to “freedom and salvation.”

After the audience, the pope returned to the Vatican to take up his residence in his newly renovated papal apartments.

It marked the official end to his vacation stay at the papal summer residence south of Rome, in Castel Gandolfo, where he had spent most of the summer months.

An attitude of prayer

Abiding in God leads to joyful life

Abiding in the Lord is a beautiful form of prayer.

Listen to the words of Jesus: “Abide in me and together we will bear rich fruit. ... In this world you will have many troubles, but do not be afraid, for I have overcome the world. ... I have told you all these things that your joy may be full.”

The Lord wants us to live in his joy. We do this best by abiding in him. In other words, by giving ourselves to God consciously and joyfully we are creating an attitude of prayer.

This doesn’t mean we have to be thinking about God all the time; that would be next to impossible. But we can make a daily morning offering, giving the Lord all our thoughts, actions, joys and sorrows.

Just beneath the surface of your busy lives, your soul will be resting in the Lord. Like a mother who is attentive to the sounds of her infant in the next room even while she is busy doing something else, so too will you be attentive to the presence of God, even though you are not consciously thinking of him at the moment.

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN
CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



It is a wonderful gift to God when you make an intention to abide in his presence — even though you know your thoughts will be a million miles away from him most of the day. This is what we call a virtual intention as opposed to an actual intention, which would have to be repeated thousands of times a day.

Here’s a little prayer I use during the day to recapture my morning offering: “Holy Spirit, Soul of my soul, I adore you. ... Thank you for loving me. Guide and protect me always, and help me to be responsive to the needs of others.”

I find that by repeating this thought

often, I not only live in his joy but I renew my awareness that I am a carrier of divine love.

Recently I gave a day of recollection on joy to the priests of the Diocese of Erie, Pa. One of them put up his hand and asked me to define spiritual joy. I replied, “Spiritual joy is abiding in God’s unchanging love.”

I explained further that supernatural joy requires a leap of faith. Whereas natural joy is immediate, like holding a laughing baby, supernatural joy comes from the deep inner knowledge of God’s loving presence within you. It is a joy that this world cannot give.

Julianne of Norwich said that we can choose this state of mind. She said, “The greatest honor you can give to almighty God, greater than all your penances and sacrifices, is to live gladly, joyfully because of the knowledge of his love.”

Even if you are a sinner, caught up in some situation not of your liking, you can abide in God’s love. The desire to be a saint one day is a sincere beginning. It pleases God to receive your good intentions and high hopes. Keep it up.

One day the Lord will heal all your wounds and forgive all your misdeeds. In the meantime, abide in his love, and live your precious life joyfully.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church a thriving home for Catholics

LEXINGTON — In 1917, J.V. Brown and family came to Lexington, the earliest known Catholics in the area. A few years later they were joined by Sylvia Leake Marsh and J. Lance Crump.

For nearly 30 years, local Catholics traveled to Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury for Mass and to receive the sacraments.

In January 1944, through the efforts of Charles Coira, a local Catholic businessman, Father Thomas Colgan of St. Edward Church in High Point began celebrating Sunday Mass in the Coira home.

In April 1944, a mission of Sacred Heart Church was established in Lexington. Father Cletus Helfrich was assigned pastor of the unnamed church and conducted services for about two years. At that time, there were 100,000 people in the county, with less than one percent of the population being Catholic.

In November 1946, when about 15 Catholics were gathering weekly for Mass, a house was bought on the present

site of Our Lady of the Rosary Church. With this purchase the parish could then call itself Holy Rosary Church — the church's original designation.

The Diocese of Raleigh installed Father Edward Sullivan as the first resident pastor of the new parish.

In 1950, Father Peytus from Christ the King Church in High Point came to lead a small African-American Catholic mission of 12 people.

Among them was Pauletto Thomas, who, in 1962, became Dominican Sister Mary Paul.

In 1954, that mission was integrated into Holy Rosary Church.

By the mid-1950s, the facilities had become inadequate. Construction of a new church and adjoining rectory was begun in September 1957. The construction was completed during Holy Week 1958 and dedicated by Bishop Vincent Waters on July 16, 1958.

In 1966, Father Ron McLaughlin was assigned as pastor. There was at

this time a great deal of racial tension and unrest. Father McLaughlin was instrumental in forming the Layman's Christian Council, whose goal was to unite lay people from local black and white churches. They met monthly at the First Presbyterian Church to resolve many of the issues of the time.

During the 1970s and early '80s, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales priests pastured the Lexington church.

In 1977, the church was updated to meet the requirements of Vatican II. In 1979, a separate rectory was built behind the church. The former rectory was converted into office space.

In 1981, the parish received a modification of a different kind: its name was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary Church. A nearby building was also purchased that year, named Our Lady of the Rosary Center and modified to include classrooms for religious education, a kitchen and a parish hall.

In 1988, the diocese assumed leadership of the parish, assigning Father Richard Hanson as pastor, followed by Father Joseph Kelleher in 1991.

In 1998, the diocese once again entrusted the administration of the parish to the Oblates of St. Francis DeSales at the request of then-Bishop William Curlin. On July 1, 1998, Oblate Father Albert Gondek was assigned as pastor. Under his leadership, the church and Rosary Center were updated and modernized, a rectory was purchased and the former rectory was converted into administrative offices.

With an influx of about 3,000 Hispanics to the Lexington area during the 1990s, a Hispanic community was born.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH

619 South Main Street
Lexington, N.C. 27292
Phone: (336) 248-2463
Vicariate: Winston-Salem
Pastor: Oblate Father Albert Gondek
Number of households: 186



Oblate Father
Albert Gondek

"When I was assigned here ... a woman approached me and asked me to start a Spanish-language Mass," said Father Gondek. "I told her that there were no Spanish-speaking people here. She said that there were more Spanish people here than I could imagine."

On Sept. 18, 1999, a Spanish liturgy was celebrated for the first time. The church was filled to capacity and continues to be so at the weekly Spanish Mass.

At the present time, the parish is seeking approval to renovate the parish center to accommodate various activities and events.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more on Our Lady of the Rosary Church's Hispanic parishioners, please see page 4.



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington has served Catholics in Davidson County for almost 60 years.

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Santorini — breathtakingly beautiful, active caldera perhaps site of Atlantis?

